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MARRIAGES.

At Shanghai, on the 6th April, 1896, at H.B.M.'s Consulate by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, Consul-General, and afterwards at St. Joseph's Cathedral by the Rev. Father Frin, GERTRUDE ADELE, eldest surviving daughter of the late HENRY SMITH BIDWELL, of Shanghai, to ALFRED DENNY, fourth son of the late JOHN ROBERT LOWE, of Newstead House, near Stamford, England.

On 8th April, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, WILLIAM YOUNG SHOWLER, only son of Thomas Young Showler, of Bawtry, Yorkshire, England, to AMY GRACE, second daughter of JOHN RICKETT, of Yokohama.

At Shanghai, on the 15th April, 1896, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, Consul-General, and afterwards by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., at Trinity Cathedral, JENNY ELEANOR, eldest daughter of GEORGE JAMIESON, H.B.M.'s Consul, Shanghai, to W. BRUCE ROBERTSON, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 14th April, at Mount Austin Hotel, ALLAN COUTTS, the dearly beloved son of HENRY ALLAN and EDMEE ALICE RITCHIE, aged 11 months. [962]

On the 1st April, at Wuhu, JENS VIGGO THORWOLD LARSEN, Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service.

At Hankow, on the 14th April, 1896, ANNIE E. GREEN, the beloved wife of J. T. GREEN, I.M.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 21st March arrived, per P. M. steamer *Belgie*, on the 17th April (27 days); the English mail of the 20th

March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ravenna*, on the 18th April (29 days); and the Canadian mail of the 30th March arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 21st April (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Sir Claude MacDonald left Shanghai for Tientsin on the 12th April.

A farewell conversation was given at Tientsin on the 7th April in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Detring.

A case of plague has been imported into Yokohama from Hongkong. Another suspected case was found on further examination not to be plague.

In a fire which occurred at Shanghai on the 8th April in a house in Peking Road, owned and occupied by Tong Mow-chee, two native children were burnt to death.

A Reuter's telegram states that a Korean envoy has been despatched to Russia for the purpose of raising a loan of \$8,000,000, Korea giving the province of Hang Yung security.

A Colonial Department has been organised at Tokyo by Imperial Ordinance. Marquis Ito will act as Minister of the Department, and Baron Suyematsu will be the Vice-Minister.

So far as we (*China Gazette*) can learn there is not likely to be a single British steamer going up to Hankow for tea this year; nothing but Russians or ships chartered on Russian account.

The *materiel* of the Compagnie Francaise des Tramways à Vapeur de Cochinchine has been seized at Saigon under legal process commenced by creditors in Paris and is advertised for sale. Meanwhile the line continues to run as usual.

The Government having asked the Chamber of Commerce whether the Hon. T. H. Whitehead represents its views on the question of the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board Mr. Whitehead has forwarded to the press an interesting correspondence on the subject.

It is stated that there are no less than a hundred odd Japanese now in Soochow ready to open hongs, etc., to trade with the natives. Owing to the slow progress of the negotiations regarding the Commercial Treaty, it is reported that the proposed Japanese settlements at Hankow and Ichang will be deferred indefinitely.

Some apprehension is felt as to the probability of an outbreak of piracy on the Yangtze and special precautions are being taken on the steamers running on the river. The large number of disbanded soldiers in the neighbourhood, who seek their living by plunder, are responsible for the uneasy feeling that prevails.

Baron von Seckendorf, German Consul at Tientsin, was entertained at a farewell banquet by the German community at that port on the 11th April. Baron von Seckendorf will be succeeded in his post there by an old Tientsin resident, Mr. Charles Feindel, who has for some time past been employed by his Government at home.

M. Dubail, the French Consul-General, left Shanghai on the 8th April for Hankow on a mission in connection with the laying out of a French Settlement at the latter port.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Mercury* says:—There is a Canton or Hongkong syndicate in Peking trying to secure permission for the Kowloon and Canton line, which, I learn, is likely to be built before the Hankow line.

It is reported in the Japan papers that the Osaka Shosha Kaisha has decided to build ten new steamers at a cost of \$2,012,000. Three of 3,500 tons, costing \$300,000 each, are to ply between Kobe and Kelung; three of 1,200 tons and costing \$156,000 each between Moji and the Loochoos; two of 1,200 tons and costing \$130,000 each between Tamsui and Hongkong.

The following *communiqué* appears in the *Rangoon Gazette*:—Sir Nicholas O'Connor, the late Ambassador to China, has upheld the views of our Consul-General at Shanghai regarding the question of Indian opium taxation, and the Chinese Government have now practically consented to allow the matter to rest in accordance with the views expressed by the Government of India.

The cost of insuring municipal property at Singapore is said to have risen from \$120 to \$716, consequent upon the recent increase in fire rates. The extraordinary difference in the figures is suggestive of a misprint; but the *Straits Times* gives the amounts as they stand above in two places, once in the report of a meeting of the Municipal Commissioners and once in a separate paragraph.

A Reuter's telegram states that the new treaty between Germany and Japan completely abolishes extraterritoriality, but the Consuls retain legal functions in certain matters, notably in questions of succession and guardianship. A Convention dealing with patent trade marks is projected; meanwhile Germans are placed on an equal footing with the natives. Japan concedes reductions in the Tariff and Germany merely grants the "most-favoured nation" treatment to Japan.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—To give an idea of the increase in value of land in Hongkew within the past three or four years, we note that land in the vicinity of the Rifle Range and along the macadamised Woosung Road outside of the boundary stones of the Settlement, which could have been purchased for about Tls. 200 to Tls. 250 a mow in 1891, and which was changing hands only a few months ago for Tls. 800 a mow, is now being purchased for Tls. 1,200, and the owners are reluctant in allowing it to go at that price.

The Emperor, says the *Messenger*, has approved a memorial of the Board of Revenue on currency. Gold, silver, and copper coins are to be minted in Peking. The necessary apparatus for a mint will be obtained from Shanghai. The English sovereign is to be a model for gold coins. The provinces will have each its own mint, but Governors are at liberty to have coins made for them at the Wuchang and Canton mints if they prefer it. Viceroy Liu at Nanking has already sent to Shanghai for the required machinery to supply the needs of his viceroyalty.

RUSSIAN DESIGNS IN KOREA AND THE POLICY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

If the announcement made by Reuter to the effect that the Korean Government propose to hand over the province of Hang Yeng as security for a loan to Russia be true this may be regarded as the beginning of the end: the instalment of the Czar instead of the Son of Heaven as Suzerain of the land of Morning Calm. The importance of this latest development of Russian diplomacy can hardly be over-estimated. It was always believed that the Russian Government had an eye on Korea, and having regard to the necessity they feel for the acquisition of an open harbour on the Pacific, no one would have been surprised had they sought to secure one years ago. But during the war between China and Japan, and during their intervention after the settlement of peace negotiations, they sought to pose as disinterested on-lookers, save for the fact that they admitted their interests would have suffered by the establishment of Japanese rule in the Liao-tung peninsula. It did really seem as if Russia had determined to postpone her reward for this interference on behalf of China to a quite distant date, not, of course, to the Greek Kalends, but to some date in the rapidly nearing Twentieth Century. No indecent haste was to be exhibited; matters might well wait until the completion of that great enterprise the Trans-Siberian Railway, when the Russian Government would be in a position to insist upon any territorial acquisition she might desire to make either from Korea or from her greater neighbour China. The most casual student of Far Eastern politics recognised that with the opening of the great railway would commence the development of Muscovite influence in China, but perhaps few suspected that it was to have an earlier beginning. Whether there has been any acceleration of movement in the Councils of St. Petersburg it is hard to say, but it certainly is not probable that Korea has taken the initiative in this matter. In any case something of the kind was expected to happen later on, and it is most unlikely that the British Government will intervene or take any action inimical to Russia. We have neither the wish nor the right to endeavour to check the natural expansion of the great Slav Empire southwards. We sympathised with Japan in her struggle with China, but few Europeans thought it would be for her permanent advantage to abandon her insular position and be committed to a contest for supremacy on the mainland with China and Russia. She has won Formosa and completed the chain of her island territory, an addition that will give her population room for fresh enterprise and effort. Had she annexed a portion of China she might ultimately have attained the sovereignty of that Empire and would in turn, like the Manchus, have been absorbed. The two great empires of Russia and China are about to be brought into close contact, and who can say with what result? China's millions cannot be absorbed by the Slav, but they may be held in subjection, and unless a very marked and surprising change comes over the Chinese race this seems likely to happen.

Meantime what is to be the policy of Great Britain? It would be interesting to know whether the British Government are prepared for these momentous changes in the Far East, or whether a policy of drift is still the order of the day at the Foreign Office. We hope not, and are encouraged by the language used by Mr. BALFOUR and Mr. CURZON to believe that events in Eastern

Asia are being more closely watched. We do not advocate any idea of attempting to checkmate Russia; on the contrary, it should be the policy of England to be on friendly terms with her great neighbour in Asia. But she should not shut her eyes to facts or neglect her own interests. While treating Russia as a friend she should take care to keep pace with her. This rise of Russian power on the Pacific should be the signal to consolidate her own. At present this colony of Hongkong, the farthest outpost of the British Empire, is absolutely defenceless against a well conceived attack, and is far removed from any reach of succour if invested by an enemy. The British Squadron is incapable of coping with the Russian fleet in these waters, and even supposing that it could hold its own, it could by no possibility defend the island and protect British merchant shipping afloat. It should be strengthened to such a point as to be able to meet the strongest possible combination against it in these seas. The boundaries of the colony of Hongkong should at once be extended to the limit suggested by military experts, and no *quid pro quo* offered, because we already have heavy claims against China. The garrison should be increased to ten thousand men, the fortifications added to where necessary, a powerful guard ship stationed here in addition to the *Wivern*, and the torpedo flotilla trebled. If we are to hold our own in the Far East we must be prepared for all eventualities, and as China cannot be trusted to observe her most solemn covenants and treaties (*vide* the recent cession to France of the territory lately assigned to her on the express condition that she was not to cede it), the British Government ought to resume possession of Chusan. A naval station further north is almost a *sine qua non* to the maintenance of British sea power in the Pacific and just as necessary as an open port to Russia to secure an outlet for her trade. It is vain to attempt to balk Russian ambition in this direction, but as a means to self-preservation it is essential that we should hold a coaling and naval station where, in the event of foreign embroilment or of Chinese treachery, the British warships would have a place to coal and refit. The proximity of the Chusan Islands to Shanghai, where such enormous British interests are developing, and the capabilities of the harbour of Tinghai render the group peculiarly suitable for the purpose. It is to be regretted that, when last in possession of Chusan, the British Government ever evacuated the islands, for then there would have been no necessity to parley with China on the subject and no outcry on the part of foreign journals, which would now of necessity have to be faced.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD AND A QUID PRO QUO FOR CHINESE CONCESSIONS.

The conference between Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD and the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, held during His Excellency's brief stay in this colony on his way to take up his new appointment, appears to have been of an interesting character, although there was little that was new said on either side, the subjects touched upon being all well-worn. Mr. McCONACHIE, the Chairman, drew His Excellency's attention to three points, namely, the opening of the West River, the recognition of transit passes, and the extension of the colony's boundaries, and concisely and forcibly showed the importance of each of them. In reply Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD recognised the importance claimed for them, and mentioned that

meetings had been recently held at the Foreign Office in London to consider the matters mentioned and others, the later meetings being under the direct superintendence of the Hon. G. N. CURZON. That is certainly encouraging, for Mr. CURZON, as shown in his book on the Far East, has a correct appreciation of the situation in China and of the attitude to be adopted in dealing with the mandarins. It remains to be seen, however, whether he will be able to put his principles into practice or whether, when his wit is matched against that of Sir HALLIDAY MACARTNEY, China's real representative in London, he may not be fooled into compounding England's claims for a great deal less than what ought to be considered the irreducible minimum. That there is some danger in the situation seems to be indicated by a remark which Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD let fall. "The remedy," His Excellency said, "would appear to lie in the direction of obtaining a sufficiently attractive *quid pro quo* to induce the Central Government to grant the concessions set forth in your Chairman's remarks." Was this an idea which merely suggested itself to His Excellency at the moment and to which he gave utterance without due consideration, or does it represent the attitude of the Foreign Office? In either case it is to be regretted that it has ever been entertained and still more that it has been publicly expressed. For what is the *quid pro quo* to be given? The opening of the West River would be as much to the advantage of China as to that of foreign trade, while the observance of the transit pass regulations should be insisted upon as a matter of common honesty. For neither of these could a *quid pro quo* be given. There remains the extension of the colony's boundaries. Is this a matter for which compensation should be given, or should the required extension be demanded in part satisfaction of England's outstanding claims against China? Undoubtedly the latter. China has put herself seriously in the wrong in ceding territory to France that she had covenanted with Great Britain not to surrender, and the rectification of Hongkong's boundaries might appropriately be demanded as part of the compensation China is to be called upon to pay. There is in addition a long list of outrages, culminating in the horrible Kucheng massacre, still unatoned for. With England's large outstanding claims against China, to talk of giving the latter a *quid pro quo* for what might to be demanded as a right, as a satisfaction for injuries sustained, is indicative of a lack of that firmness without which no real progress can be made in negotiating with the arrogant and overreaching mandarins of the Tsung-li Yamen. The only *quid pro quo* to which China is entitled is a decisive "you must."

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER AND FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

It is worthy of note that, while negotiations in connection with the opening of the West River and its affluents to foreign trade and steamer navigation are proceeding in London, one of the arguments urged in favour of the step from a Chinese point of view is being specially emphasized. As is well known, the provinces of Kwangsi and Kweichow are periodically desolated by famine, and at the present time this scourge is ravaging Kwangsi to such an extent that the miserable peasants have been reduced to living on leaves and the bark of trees, while many have been driven by despera-

tion to sell their children to obtain the means to purchase food. Kwangsi is a great but thinly peopled province, its area being little inferior to that of Kwangtung, but having less than one third of the population. This arises in part of course from the productive portion being smaller, but this is not the only cause for its lack of prosperity. There is no scarcity of good land; it is the distance from a good market that checks its growth. There is thus no inducement to producers, and the agriculturists only raise sufficient produce for the supply of local wants. If a good market were available there would soon be a largely increased production. Similarly, if facilities of carriage were provided, there would be much increased demand for imports of all kinds, whether necessities or luxuries, that for the latter growing *pari passu* with the prosperity of the natives. Then, again, in the event of cheap and easy means of carriage being provided, such as light draft steamers up to Nanning-fu and Po-se, it would, in the event of a famine like the present, be possible to get grain up to the suffering districts with a rapidity and certainty that would effectually dissipate all fear of actual starvation.

It is to be feared, however, that this consideration, any more than the development of the resources of the interior provinces, will not greatly influence the Chinese Government in their decision. The fact will none the less be a satisfaction to those foreigners who have so long and steadily advocated the throwing open of the great inland waterways of South China to steamer navigation, because, though the primary motive governing this agitation has been a selfish one, it has not been the sole one. The condition of the great plains of Kwangsi, strewn at intervals with the ruins of once prosperous towns, has convinced thoughtful travellers that the causes for this decay are remediable, and there can be little doubt that the system of taxation, which checks movement, and the want of facilities for reaching a good market are probably chiefly responsible for this decay. COLQUHOUN is of opinion that one great cause for the decay of the towns on the West River was the diversion of the carrying trade between Yunnan and Canton to the river Yangtze, but this could only partially account for it, we think, though at one time no doubt the trade with Yunnan—before the suppression of the Mahomedan rebellion made it a wilderness—must have been vastly greater than is now the case. But whatever the causes of this decline, it cannot be doubted that the country drained by the West and North rivers and their affluents would benefit most materially by being brought within reach of foreign markets. We trust that the Foreign Office have not made the mistake of confining the demand to the mere opening of Wuchow as a Treaty Port, which of itself would be of comparatively little value; we are encouraged to hope for a more comprehensive demand by the reference made by Sir CLAUDE MAC DONALD, in his reply to the Chamber of Commerce, to the West River and its affluents.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 14th April says:—Much regret was felt among his numerous old friends in Shanghai at the news received yesterday by wire of the death in Siam on Saturday last of heat apoplexy of Mr. J. F. Cheetham. Mr. Cheetham was for many years in the firm of Turner & Co. and afterwards in Purdon & Co., leaving Shanghai to take up an appointment in Siam in 1893. He was a most valued member of the Fire Brigade and his good humour and geniality secured him a large number of friends in Shanghai.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FOR HONGKONG.

We invite attention to the thoughtful letter signed "Progress" which will be found in another column of this issue. As "Progress" points out, in the territories under the Government of India all problems relating to the art of properly governing Oriental communities and also mixed communities of Europeans and Orientals have been and are being worked out on a scale infinitely greater than can be the case elsewhere in the East. In Indian towns there has been no difficulty in obtaining adequate representation on the Municipal Councils by energetic and public spirited members of the European non-official community. Coming nearer home we see what is done at Shanghai. Can we suppose that the English community of Hongkong is the only one of English communities all over the world unfitted to take any part in public affairs? The policy of the Government, however, is not only not to endow the colony with a municipality but even to reduce the small element of popular representation which it previously possessed on the Sanitary Board to a nullity. And this, too, at a time when the colony is threatened with what may prove to be the greatest crisis in its history. Government by officials has had a trial of fifty-five years and amongst the results may be set down the insanitary state of the colony which allowed the plague of 1894 to work such havoc. The cause for the Government is that the insanitation which existed was the fault of the Sanitary Board, but the contention that the last named body, bound hand and foot and with no effective power of action, could be expected in a few years to remove the consequences of many years of official neglect, is really too absurd for serious consideration. However, when the epidemic of 1894 came to an end it was hoped we had seen the last of the disease and that the efforts then put forth to establish a "cordon of cleanliness," which is said to be an effective barrier to plague, would render another visitation of the like kind impossible. Yet here we are in 1896 once more called upon to face the enemy. We have plague amongst us; some authorities think that as the season progresses the disease will become more virulent, as it did in 1894, when its existence was not officially recognised until the middle of May; a couple of cases have been conveyed to Japan and the English papers there are crying out for quarantine; and quarantine is already imposed at Singapore and Manila. Where is it all to end? Are we to have the same thing repeated year after year? If so what will become of the trade of the colony? What will be the value of property? Plague made its appearance in Yunnan some fifty years ago and has since reappeared annually with unfailing regularity, though it is more virulent some years than others. What has happened in Yunnan may for all that is known to the contrary be repeated at Canton, and if so there would be a constant danger of the importation of the disease into this colony. At Canton we learn that this year it exists only in sporadic form in the East Gate district and in some of the neighbouring villages, and it is permissible to hope that it will disappear without again assuming the virulence of an epidemic. But while hoping for the best it behoves the colony to be prepared for the worst, and the Government, instead of resenting, ought to invite the assistance and co-operation of the community in placing the sanitation

in a thoroughly satisfactory condition. It is the universal experience that sanitary progress attains its highest development only under a system of popular representation, and it seems to us a simple absurdity to contend that Hongkong must necessarily be an exception to the rule. We have the authority of holy writ for saying that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and we maintain that all classes and all interests ought to be represented on the Sanitary Board in order that the best means may be devised of keeping the colony free of all epidemic disease and that in carrying out the measures decided upon particular interests should not be adversely affected to a greater extent than may be absolutely necessary for the public welfare. The officials who are engaged in combatting the plague are individually working earnestly and well, but they need the assistance of a thoroughly representative body to arrive at satisfactory conclusions as to what ought to be done and how to do it. The matter affects every one alike, for if the plague is to be of annual recurrence commercial firms may find it to their interest to close their Hongkong branches and with a diminution in its business prosperity the colony would no longer be able to support the official establishments on their present scale. According to the law officials whose services had to be dispensed with would be entitled to no compensation, and even if they were they would not be able to extract it out of an empty treasury. The official community therefore is as much interested as the unofficial community in keeping the colony going and in the present emergency it would be well for them to sacrifice any feelings of false pride they may entertain and consent to take counsel with the community through its duly elected representatives as to what is best to be done to meet the common danger.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The question of the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board appears at last to be entering upon the road to a rational solution. The Government has solicited an expression of opinion from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which indicates a willingness to be more or less guided thereby. The natural course will be for the Committee to call a general meeting of the members of the Chamber to consider the matter, and in that way something like an authoritative expression from a body which may be considered to a certain extent representative of the community will be arrived at. It would be still more satisfactory, however, to have a plebiscite of the whole of the English speaking ratepayers of the colony. That would place at once and for ever beyond doubt the views and wishes of the community. A Chamber of Commerce is not the kind of body that a Government would ordinarily consult upon a sanitary question, but having regard to the constitution of our mixed community in Hongkong the views of the Chamber will be entitled to considerable weight, if the Government should be unprepared to go any further in its efforts to arrive at the opinion of the public at large. So far the Chamber has given no mandate to its representative in Council either to support or oppose the Sanitary Board and we agree with the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD in his contention that members of the Council ought not to be regarded as mandataires. The official members of Council are bound to vote as they

are told, but the unofficial members, whether elected or appointed by the Crown, are free men entitled to vote according to the dictates of their conscience. Those of them who are elected receive the suffrages of their constituents because they enjoy their confidence on general grounds; and even if it were desirable it would be impracticable to give them a mandate on every question that may present itself for the consideration of the legislature. The two elected members are the Hon. C. P. CHATER, by the Justices of the Peace, and the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, by the Chamber of Commerce. The bodies electing these gentlemen largely overlap each other in their membership and the probability of their entertaining diverse views on any particular question is a remote one. Yet Mr. CHATER and Mr. WHITEHEAD are diametrically opposed to each other on this question of the Sanitary Board and we have no doubt that if their period of office expired to-morrow they would each be re-elected unanimously. The colony could not afford to dispense with the services of either of them. The Sanitary Board question, though very important and pressing, is not the only one that has to be considered, and although Mr. CHATER, according to our view, has espoused the wrong side in this instance, the many services he has rendered to the colony, of which the latest is his able letter on the extension of the colony's boundaries—a very appropriate subject for the gentleman who is chiefly responsible for the much needed enlargement of the area of Victoria by the Praya Reclamation—ensure him his seat in Council for as long as he cares to retain it. Considering how small in number the Legislative Council is, any attempt to force a vote of confidence or no confidence in the elected members on any particular question is to be deprecated. The colony does not want faddist members, but men of good all round qualifications.

So far the Government has asked only for the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce on the Sanitary Board question; it might with equal propriety have asked for the opinion of the Justices of the Peace. As it has failed to do so it might be useful if Mr. CHATER were himself to take the opinion of his constituents. This might easily be done by means of a circular requesting an answer to the question "Are you in favour of an unofficial majority on the Sanitary Board?" If the "noes" were in a majority then the hon. gentleman would know that his constituents approved of the support he is giving to the Government in the matter; if, on the other hand, the "yeas" were in the majority he would still be entitled to vote according to his own opinion and to use such arguments as might suggest themselves to him in support of that opinion, but his vote would then not carry the weight of a large backing. When the question of adopting some means of arriving at the opinion of the general community upon this question, by a public meeting or otherwise, has been mentioned in the course of general conversation we have heard it suggested that any such attempt would lead simply to a trial of strength between rival factions, in which the real merits of the question at issue would be relegated to a secondary position. It seems to us an insult to the gentlemen who have taken the more prominent parts in the discussion to suppose that in a question of this kind they would use any other weapon than that of fair argument, and it is an insult also to the community to suppose that they would allow themselves to be

influenced by hope of favours or fear of displeasure. It is a purely political question, on which every man ought to feel himself free to express his opinion without fear, favour, or affection, and we are confident there can be no disposition on the part of any of the leaders in the discussion to use improper influence. The real feeling of the community is what it is desirable to arrive at; the opinion of the Justices of the Peace and of the Chamber of Commerce would be a step in that direction, but it would not be absolutely conclusive. We trust therefore that the Government will fall in with Mr. WHITEHEAD's idea of taking a plebiscite. This might be satisfactorily done by addressing a circular to all ratepayers on the jury list, appealing in fact to the same constituency as that appointed by the Public Health Act to elect the two representatives of the ratepayers on the Sanitary Board as it existed before the recent disruption. At the last election, which took place on the 16th June, 1894, Mr. T. JACKSON said:—"There is no doubt the present state of Hongkong is a disgrace not only to the Government but to our civilization." We think the opinion of the community if it could be officially arrived at would be that to remove the unofficial element from the Sanitary Board or to reduce its numbers to such an extent as to render it powerless is not the best way of mending matters. The community has emphatically expressed itself in favour of an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, and the principle at stake in the case of the Sanitary Board is precisely the same. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the decision would be the same, assuming the matter to be left to the public to decide.

A SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ASIA AND THE POSITION OF HONGKONG.

The suggestion that a Secretary of State for Asia should be appointed has much to recommend it. The functions now discharged by the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, would then, so far as Asia is concerned, be united in one department, and much of the confusion and waste of labour occasioned by the necessity of referring questions from one department to another under the present system would be obviated. The advantages of the proposal from a general point of view have been set out by the Hon. G. N. CURZON and other authorities and it is unnecessary that we should repeat at length what they have said. It may be interesting, however, to consider what the probable effect would be on this colony in particular. It has been suggested by the *China Mail* that Hongkong under a Secretary of State for Asia would become a mere appanage to India. We see no reason to suppose that that would necessarily be the case. The colony is too distant from India to be effectively governed as an integral portion of that Empire and it must therefore be allowed to retain its local autonomy. The Governor might perhaps be selected from the Indian Civil Service instead of from the ordinary Colonial Service, but while he held the Government he would be responsible to the proposed Secretary of State for Asia, not to the Viceroy of India. What is more probable, however, is that the Government would be entrusted to the General Officer Commanding the Troops, and it might be considered advisable that for military purposes the colony should be attached to the Indian command, but for

civil purposes the supreme authority would still be the Secretary of State. But even if it were considered possible that the colony should be made altogether an appanage of India and a decision to that effect was given we do not know that the change would be one to be greatly regretted by the community, provided we were guaranteed against any financial calls being made upon the colony, or outside purposes beyond the military contribution of seventeen and a half per cent. of the general revenue. Taxation in India is on a somewhat higher scale than in this colony and in the event of any such amalgamation as has been suggested taking place it would be necessary to look to the protection of our financial interests. With adequate guarantees on that point, incorporation with the Indian Empire, so far from being objected to, might perhaps even be welcomed. As our correspondent "Progress," whose letter appeared yesterday, says, it is the policy of the Indian Government to encourage, not to repress, municipal aspirations, and we might therefore reasonably expect to be accorded a share in the management of our own local affairs, which is at present denied to us by the authorities of Downing Street and their representatives in the colony. Hongkong has certainly little to thank the Colonial Office for and a severance of the connection would afford no ground for sentimental regret. It was hoped when the present Secretary of State for the Colonies came into office that the reasonable claims of the colony would have received some attention, but the permanent officials seem to have been too strong even for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S REFUSAL TO LAND AT HONGKONG.

The views expressed in this column as to Li HUNG-CHANG's failure to land at Hongkong are confirmed by what His Excellency is reported to have said at Singapore. We hope for the sake of His Excellency's reputation for veracity that there has been an error in the report, but unfortunately the hope seems to have little justification. There was no reason why the Ambassador should have landed here, if he did not wish to do so, but there was every reason why he should have exercised ordinary courtesy in declining the invitation extended to him. As it was, he gave a conditional acceptance and then, the condition being fulfilled, he declined to act upon his acceptance. It is said he notified the Consul-General at Shanghai that, not having received a definite assurance before leaving that port as to his landing here not rendering him liable to quarantine elsewhere, he was reluctantly compelled to decline the Governor's invitation. We believe we are correct in saying a copy of the despatch alleged to have been sent to Sir NICHOLAS HANNEN has been preserved in the Ambassadorial archives, but it seems inconceivable that if any such despatch had reached the Consul-General he should have failed to immediately notify the Governor by telegraph. Granted, however, that His Excellency did finally decline the invitation before leaving Shanghai on the ground of fear of quarantine and that the Consul-General failed to acquaint the Governor with the fact, Li was notified immediately on his arrival here that he need be under no apprehension as to quarantine. His alleged objection to landing was therefore removed, but still he did not land. Why? Because, he is alleged to have said at Singapore, "if he went, his servants, would also land, and the infection might be brought aboard."

"While he remained on the vessel none of his servants would dare to land!" This is a truly extraordinary statement, and His Excellency must have a very poor opinion of the intelligence of Englishmen if he expected it to be accepted. Are we to suppose that the Ambassador has so little control over the servants he has selected to accompany him on his important mission that he feared they would disobey his orders and leave the vessel if he himself were absent for a few hours? That would not be exactly a compliment to His Excellency's alleged wonderful powers of government. The excuse if ever made was evidently a subterfuge, and an exceedingly clumsy one, because even if LI HUNG-CHANG was unable to control his own servants the French mail people would have done it for him, so far as regards preventing their leaving the ship. If His Excellency was not prepared to state the true reason of his not landing it would have been more prudent for him to have said nothing at all. Excuses not founded on fact are dangerous.

REVIEW.

Problems of the Far East. By the Right Hon. GEORGE N. CURZON, M.P. New and Revised Edition. Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. 1896.

It is not surprising that a new and revised edition of Mr. Curzon's excellent work should so soon have been called for. The first edition—the present one is the fourth—appeared in August, 1894, within a few weeks of the opening of the war between China and Japan. The author thus states the alterations that he has made:—

"In this new edition, which has been carefully revised throughout, I have corrected a few mistakes that had crept into the first, and have introduced a good deal of additional matter, supplied or suggested by the events of the past year. The Revision Treaty between Great Britain and Japan, and the Treaty of Peace between Japan and China, are printed as appendices; and in a fresh chapter I have endeavoured to sum up the main issues of the recent conflict and to forecast its bearing upon the Asiatic situation. I should add that the greater part of this chapter was written before the late change of Government in England, and that it has been composed in entire independence of official information or authority."

Mr. Curzon has reason to congratulate himself on the accuracy of his forecast, and has the satisfaction of confronting his critics with the evidence of events. In reviewing the first edition the *Spectator*, which Mr. Curzon characterises as "the most thoughtful of English newspapers," wrote as follows:—

"Though Mr. Curzon is a diligent collector of facts, and deserves every credit for his praiseworthy attempts to understand the problems with which he is confronted, he does not show any very strong grasp either of the great issues at stake in the Far East, or as to the relative power and capacity of the two nations which are now confronting each other. As Mr. Curzon's conclusions are necessarily prophetic in their nature, it is not, of course, possible as yet to prove him mistaken; but it cannot be said that he shows that instinctive appreciation of international affairs which is requisite for those who undertake to diagnose the conditions of three such kingdoms as Japan, Korea, and China. . . . In spite of Mr. Curzon, we believe that the weight of opinion is on the side of those who hold, as we do, that China could, if hard put to it, organise a most formidable fighting force. Does Mr. Curzon remember what Lord Wolseley has said on the subject? He has expressed his opinion that the one danger of the Anglo-Saxon race was meeting the Chinese in war,—and this is no abstract opinion, for Lord Wolseley helped to beat the Chinese under the walls of Peking. 'They possess every military virtue,' said Lord Wolseley of the Chinese. Mr. Curzon infers that the Chinese are a very unwarlike people. The world will, we think, prefer the verdict of

a soldier who has met the Chinese in battle, to that of a civilian who has done little but sniff the evil odours of Peking, and, as he would doubtless be the first to admit, has nothing that can be called first-hand knowledge of China."

This passage Mr. Curzon quotes in his preface and thinks that so fair-minded a critic as the *Spectator* will not grudge a writer who has dared to prophesy the rare satisfaction of success. The central theme of his pages when first published was "the utter rottenness of Chinese administration, and the certainty of military disaster in the case of conflict with a well-equipped foe; the confident ambitions and swelling power of Young Japan; the corrupt, though picturesque, imbecility of Korea." All this has been amply proved since the first edition appeared, but at the same time Mr. Curzon recognises, in respect of the military success of Japan, that the conquest of an effete empire like China affords little criterion of her real fighting power if confronted by a European army.

Of Korea Mr. Curzon says:—"Unfortunately for her the conflict for which she supplied a convenient battle-ground, rather than a legitimate provocation, was forced upon her by the tempers of her Asiatic neighbours, too highly charged to postpone any longer the inevitable explosion. My own conviction, expressed in my first edition, that the only hope of continued national existence for Korea lay in the maintenance of her connection with China has not, in my opinion, been falsified by the issue of the campaign, since the independence, which was the nominal pretext of the latter, and is now claimed as its result, is a phantom which not even the interested auspices of Japan have so far persuaded to materialise, and which will assuredly be the source of further trouble in the future."

The following passage also calls for quotation:—"How the new issue, thus raised, is likely to effect the fortunes of Korea primarily, and of the Far East in general, the time has not yet come to discuss. Japan has ousted China, and is now retiring, for fear of being ousted herself. Meanwhile, Korea is the chief sufferer at the hands of her many friends. She supplies the international football that is kicked about between the rival goal-posts of Vladivostok and Nagasaki. Poor, forlorn, and pathetic victim! Last of the nations and most miserable of peoples! With the achievement of independence her tragic vicissitudes have only entered upon a new phase. It will not be long before we hear of her again."

Mr. Curzon is careful to make it clear in his preface that the new matter embodied in the present edition was written before the late change of Government in England and has been composed in entire independence of official information or authority. Nevertheless special interest attaches to what he says in view of the fact that he is now the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and therefore in a position which lends weight to his views. This is what he has to say of British and Russian rivalries:—

"The primary interest of Great Britain in Korea is as a market for an already considerable trade. Of far greater moment, however, is the secondary and contingent interest arising out of the political future. A country so well provided with harbours which could both supply and shelter great flotillas, and so richly endowed with many potential sources of wealth, might involve a serious menace to British commerce and interests throughout the China Seas, and even in the Pacific Ocean, if held by a hostile State. A Russian port and fleet, for instance, in the Gulf of Pechili would, in time of war, constitute as formidable a danger to British shipping in the Yellow Sea as they would to the metropolitan province and the capital of China. Permanent Russian squadrons at Port Lazareff and Fusan would convert her into the greatest naval Power in the Pacific. The balance of power in the Far East would be seriously jeopardised, if not absolutely overturned, by such a development; and England is prohibited alike by her imperial objects and her commercial needs from lending her sanction to any such issue."

Mr. Curzon arrives at the following conclusions as regards China:—

"China having escaped owing to the interested intervention of foreign Powers, with no worse penalty than the surrender of an island which she had never been able either to conquer or to administer, and the payment of an indemnity for the loan of which she was willing to mortgage a security whose value she owed to the foreigner, not to herself—had a rare opportunity, as soon as peace was concluded, and she had satisfied the natural claims of her saviours, of putting her own house in order and of fortifying her still prodigious resources against another day. No such reflection, however, seems to have presented itself to the Chinese mind. She appears to have learned nothing, and what is worse, to have unlearned nothing from the war. She is content to remain the same old China, untaught and unteachable."

"Some tentative steps in the direction of so-called Reform she may take, rather with the view of appeasing others than of benefiting herself. A railroad here, an arsenal there, an order in one country for ships, an appeal to another for officers—these may be duly anticipated. But to the idea of any radical change in the system, or of any voluntary effort at national recuperation, the answer will prove to be the eternal and contemptuous 'No.'"

"If she deliberately refrains from doing so, the tutelage which she will not voluntarily engage for herself will some day be forcibly applied to her by others; her industrial exploitation, once taken seriously in hand, will pour wealth into other coffers, not into her own; in her refusal to employ foreign servants she will discover that she has invited foreign masters; and where procrastination has been the sole policy she may find, when it is too late, that partition is the inevitable result."

SUPREME COURT.

16th April.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

RE THE YAT SHING LUNG FIRM, EX PARTE TAM SHING, A CREDITOR.

This was an application for a receiving order. Mr. Reece appeared for the petitioning creditor, and Mr. Grist appeared for Ho Lin Sam, the managing partner of the debtor firm, and opposed the petition on the ground that he disputed the petitioning creditor's debt and the several acts of bankruptcy alleged in the petition.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment—The petition was filed on the 5th of March and came on for hearing, in the first instance, before this Court, on the 26th March. It was then proved by Tam Shing that he lent the defendant firm \$1,000 on the 19th November last, and received a duly chopped promissory note for that amount. His statement was fully corroborated by Tam Chun, whose rent collector Tam Shing was. On the other hand Ho Lin Sam declared the chop to be a forgery and denied having given the note, but as the petitioner's statement was further corroborated by Tam Cheuk Wan, who described himself as a partner in defendant's firm and who acted as assistant accountant and who swore he saw Ho Lin Sam affix the chop, I must believe the testimony of the three witnesses and by a great stretch of charity assume that Ho Lin Sam has a very defective memory. I hold, therefore, that the petitioning creditor has proved his debt. In the next place it is clear that an act of bankruptcy was committed, as the execution in the Summary Suit No. 247 of 1893 was levied by seizure and sale of the debtor's goods. It is however, in this colony found by experience that receiving orders are often applied for, for the purpose of obtaining protection of the person of the debtor without any real desire to carry out the true intent of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, namely, an equal distribution of assets among the creditors. It is clear this distribution can only be made where there are assets to distribute, after payment of the costs incidental to the bankruptcy. It is, therefore, provided by section 7, subsection 3, of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, that, if the Court is satisfied that there are and will be no sub-

stantial assets for division among the creditors, or that, for other sufficient cause, no order ought to be made, the Court may dismiss the petition. In the case an interim receiving order was made to enable the officer of the Court to ascertain whether substantial assets were forthcoming. He has taken considerable trouble in the matter and has sent his collector, accompanied by Ho Lin Sam and Tam Cheuk Wan, to all those who are alleged to owe money to the firm, and, in several instances, it appeared that these two men Ho Lin Sam and Tam Cheuk Wan had actually collected the sums alleged to be due, shortly before the petition was filed. My experience is that there is a wonderful difference in Chinese bankruptcies between the assets at first alleged to exist and those that are afterwards realized, and from Mr. Seth's report I hold there is very little chance of realizing (including what is now in his hands) as much as the total sum of \$250. That sum would not be more than sufficient to pay the solicitor's costs if the bankruptcy were proceeded with. In my opinion there would be no assets for division among the creditors, certainly no substantial assets. In these circumstances I see no advantage that the petitioning creditor would derive from continuing these proceedings, and although I have not forgotten the matters urged by Mr. Reece, I think it my duty to dismiss this petition, but without costs. I allow \$50 costs to Mr. Reece, as he succeeded on the issue of the validity of the apportioning creditor's debt, and I make an order against Ho Lin Sam personally to pay that sum as I do not feel justified in taking out of the small sum in Court the proceeds of the execution.

18th April.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A MEAN THIEF.

Wong Kwai was charged on five counts with stealing money and jewellery from women. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and the following jury were sworn—Messrs. Collaco, F. F. Ribeiro, C. E. Osmund, G. A. Yvanovich, F. X. do Rozario, A. J. Madar, and G. H. dos Remedios. Hon. A. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) appeared on behalf of the Crown to prosecute, being instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor).

Only three charges were taken against the prisoner. The cases were all similar, and in each one the prisoner met a woman and pretended there were some bank notes in a handkerchief and he wanted her to change them. He then induced her to hand over to him jewellery and money she had with her as a sort of security while she changed the notes. Of course there were no notes in the handkerchief and when the swindle was discovered prisoner had bolted. He was found guilty and sent to gaol for two and a half years altogether.

Mr. Dick Melbourne then said he appeared on behalf of a goldsmith who had purchased the jewellery stolen by the prisoner from the prosecutrix in the fifth charge. He asked that the property should not be restored to the prosecutrix, as the transaction was one of ordinary purchase and sale.

His Lordship said that the goods were sold to the goldsmith by the thief on the very same day that they were stolen, and the goldsmith admitted that he himself had broken up the rings and some of the gold from the bangles after the goods had come into his possession. He had made no inquiry as to the ownership of the goods, and they were only traced to his shop because the thief told the Police he had taken the stolen property there. Even assuming that no blame attached to the goldsmith,—though, the Court thought he should have made some enquiry of the vendor before buying and breaking up property of this description—if one of two innocent parties had to suffer, the loss ought not in this case to fall upon the owner, who had prosecuted and convicted the thief, and thus had done something to vindicate justice. The woman had never divested herself of the ownership of her goods, and he saw nothing in the conduct of the goldsmith to

entitle him to any special consideration at the hands of the Court. The case came within the rule in section 83 of the Larceny Ordinance 7 of 1865, and it did not come within the exception mentioned in the proviso to that section. The prosecutrix was entitled to have the goods restored to her.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce forwards for publication copy of the Chairman's speech at the interview accorded to the Committee of the Chamber by the British Minister on the 4th April, and a resumé of His Excellency's remarks just received from him, the meeting having been unreported:—

At a special meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 11 a.m. on the 4th April, in the Chamber of Commerce Room, His Excellency Sir Claude MacDonald, K.C.M.G., the newly appointed British Minister to Peking, having courteously consented to meet them, there were present:—Mr. A. McConachie (Chairman), Messrs. Bell-Irving, N. J. Ede, R. M. Gray, T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The members having been introduced to the Minister,

The CHAIRMAN said—Your Excellency, I desire to express the pleasure with which the committee of the Chamber of Commerce now make your personal acquaintance. We are more than likely in the future to have occasion to address you from time to time on commercial matters, and the present interview which you have so kindly accorded to us, and for which I thank you, will, I trust, establish a mutual understanding. There are three main questions of the greatest, if not indeed vital, importance to the future prosperity of this colony to which I desire briefly to direct your special attention and to solicit the aid of your great influence towards their attainment. These are:—The opening of the West River to foreign trade and steamer navigation; the removal of official obstruction to the working of trade with the interior under transit pass; and the extension of the boundaries of the colony. I have no doubt you are well aware that the question of opening up the Si Kiang or West River, one of the great waterways of the Kwang provinces, to steamers of all nations, and the cities of Wuchowfu, Tsun Chow, and Nan-ning-fu to foreign trade, has for many years engaged the attention of the Chamber. The advantages that would accrue from the opening of this great river to foreign commerce generally, as well as to Hongkong in particular, would certainly be very great. This colony, situated as it is at the mouth of the Canton river, would not only become a larger distributing centre than at present, but it would benefit greatly by the increased passenger traffic that would necessarily follow upon increased facilities of transport. The opening up of the West River would also prove of great advantage to the Chinese population in the district. It would secure to the Chinese Government an increased revenue through the Customs stations in the several ports opened; it would give an impulse to production in the interior by bringing produce within reach of a market; and it would augment and enrich the population of the villages and towns along the course of the river. In short, regarded from every point of view, whether foreign or native, official or mercantile, the object sought is a most desirable one. The second point to which I have to refer is the question of the trade under Transit Pass. By Article XXVIII. of the Tientsin Treaty, as you are aware, the privilege is granted to foreign merchants to send goods to the interior from any Treaty port on payment of the usual import duty and a lekin charge of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*, for which a transit pass is issued, which pass, to quote the treaty, "shall exempt the goods from all further inland charges whatsoever." In the central and northern provinces of China a large trade has been done under transit passes, more particularly at the Yangtsze ports; but in the southern provinces, and specially in the Two Kwang, the officials have made a determined stand against this privilege

being exercised, and have contrived to practically render it a dead letter. Your Excellency's predecessor took great interest in this question, and urged the importance of securing proof of the obstruction of the officials, but for a long time this seemed impracticable, owing to the timidity of the Chinese merchants. A case has recently occurred, however, which fully supplies the desired evidence, and it has been laid before the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Briefly the facts are as follow. Some three months ago Mr. Andrew, a British merchant, left Canton in a native boat laden with piece goods, for which, after paying the usual import duty, he had duly taken a transit pass, first paying the lekin charges, and proceeded up the West River to Wuchow-fu. On arrival there he exhibited his pass to the local authorities, and then opened business, quickly disposing of part of his goods to native traders. The next day, however, these buyers informed Mr. Andrew that they dare not take delivery of the goods. They had evidently been intimidated, and said they could not complete their purchases unless a proclamation were issued by the authorities authorising them to do so. Representations to the British Consul at Canton followed, who in turn promptly laid the case before the Viceroy. That official flatly denied the intimidation, but would do nothing whatever to assist the British merchant. The case was then carried to Peking, where the efforts of Mr. Beauchamp were successful in securing some action, for on the 17th February the Prefect of Wuchow issued a proclamation nominally permitting the native dealers to trade with Mr. Andrew, but the document was so worded that not one of the native traders would venture to take a single package, it being stated in the proclamation that after the goods had been transferred to the Chinese merchants then lekin taxes and Customs dues would be charged. Further representations from the Consul only evoked from the Viceroy the rejoinder that this was done in accordance with the instructions of the Tsungli Yamen, and he contended that, once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and had been sold to the Chinese, foreigners cannot interfere, no matter what dues are levied upon them. This contention, if allowed, would of course nullify the provisions of Article XXVIII., and could not be admitted. This Chamber telegraphed to Lord Salisbury, and meantime the British Chargé d'Affaires has been in active communication with the Tsungli Yamen, with, we hope, successful results. The case, however, strikingly illustrates the obstructive tactics of the provincial officials. The third subject to which I would invite your attention is one of very great local importance. I refer to the question of the extension of the boundaries of this colony. This matter is, I believe, engaging the attention of the Imperial Government at the present moment, their notice having been specially drawn to it by representations from the civil, military, and naval authorities here. When the island was first acquired it was only sought as a place where British ships could careen and refit and British trade be conducted free from interference. When later its unprotected condition was noted and fortifications were constructed provision was only made for guns carrying a far shorter distance than at present, and the political situation was wholly different. It is now necessary, we are assured by experts, in order to provide for the adequate protection of the port, to secure a considerable extension of the territory on the other side of the harbour, setting back the boundary in fact to Mirs and Castle Peak Bays, and to acquire several of the islands to the South. Not only is this extension of the colony necessary for strategic reasons, but it is eminently desirable for others of a social, commercial, and industrial nature. The Chinese city of Kowloon, the other side, of our waters, affords a regular Alsatia for criminals, and is a constant resort of gamblers from this side. The fantan shops have several times been closed after remonstrances from the Hongkong Government, but they invariably re-open and render nugatory the efforts of the Hongkong Police to put down gambling. The existence of facilities on the other shore for eluding justice is also an incentive to robbery and all

kinds of crime. Then we need room for expansion, both in the matter of recreation and for industrial purposes, as well as land for raising vegetables and cattle. The Chinese population, too, and more especially the merchant class, would like to obtain cheap sites on which they could erect homes and bring their families to reside under the British flag instead of being, as at present in some measure, at the mercy of the mandarins, who can reach them through their relatives. The colony has progressed steadily so far as its trade is concerned; but the population is still for the most part of a very transitory description. The enlargement of its boundaries would, we confidently believe, tend to the building up of more permanent interests, the establishment of more industries, and the general increase of trade and population. If your Excellency could, without divulging any state secrets, give us any definite information on the subjects I have referred to, it would be of great interest to members. I may mention that a telegram was received here about the middle of last month, through Reuter's Agency, to the effect that an Edict had been signed in Peking sanctioning the opening of the West River, but that the actual opening thereof awaits the conclusion of an agreement with regard to the Yunnan frontier. Since that date we have received no further news on the subject.

His EXCELLENCY replied as follows:—Gentlemen, it gives me the greatest pleasure to meet you and to discuss questions which are of so important and momentous a character for the future well-being of the Chinese community in general and Hongkong in particular. It also gives me very great pleasure to make your personal acquaintance and to hear your personal views on these subjects, which views are so much better put forward at an informal meeting of this description than by lengthened correspondence. You ask me whether, if without divulging any state secrets, I can give you any definite information regarding the three points to which your Chairman has referred. I shall be very pleased to give you such information as lies in my power respecting these points, but you will kindly remember that I left England on the 28th February, since when I have been on my travels, and have had no business communications either with London or Peking, and therefore my information will be limited, but if it will interest you to hear how matters stood when I left London I shall be very glad to inform you. In the first place considerable delay had arisen with regard to negotiations respecting the matters you have mentioned and others, owing to the severe illness of His Excellency Kung Tsjen, Chinese Minister in London, who had been laid up for some four months and quite unable to attend to business. Some few weeks before I left His Excellency recovered his health and two meetings had been held at the Foreign Office; at the latter I was present and details respecting the opening of the West River were under discussion and seem to tend to a favourable issue, which the intimation conveyed in Reuter's telegram would appear to confirm. In a private letter which I received at Brindisi I was informed that the meetings, which had been ably presided over by Mr. Bertie, Head of the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, were now, owing to this gentleman's severe indisposition, under the direct superintendence of Mr. George Curzon, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whose personal knowledge of China and the Far East is well known to you. During the negotiations, great assistance had been rendered and valuable information obtained from the Committee of the China Association in London. You will see, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the great importance of the questions under discussion and are giving them every possible consideration and attention. To treat with the points your Chairman has brought to my notice in detail: The opening of the West River to trade would appear to be to all intents and purpose definitely decided upon, and I hope that this may include the opening up of its affluents and entrances, but on this point I cannot of course speak definitely. There appears to be a general opinion that the opening of these important waterways will be of little use unless the provisions of Article XXVIII. of the Tientsin Treaty are carried out in the same manner as they are

in the Central and Northern Provinces, and this brings me to the second point to which your Chairman has referred, namely, the question of trade under Transit Passes. Until my arrival yesterday in Hongkong I was not aware that a test case had been obtained, and as the case of Mr. Andrew is, so to speak, *sub judice*, I cannot of course give an opinion; but with regard to the entire question of Transit Passes, which question is of the utmost and most vital importance to the trade of Hongkong and the opening of the Western waterways, I may tell you that I held several long conversations in London on this subject with Sir Nicholas O'Connor, who impressed its great importance upon me. Conversant as you are, gentlemen, with Chinese officialdom, I need not remind you that millions of this official class will be affected by any change in the present method of collecting and subsequently disposing of the "lekin" and other dues. That they would eventually be so affected for their own material benefit I, for one, am convinced, but I am afraid that it will not be in our time that they will be so convinced. However, you may rest assured that this question will receive my most constant and earnest attention, and I hope that some solution may be arrived at before long by which the present hindrances to trade may at any rate be considerably ameliorated. The third point that your Chairman has touched upon, the extension of the boundaries of the colony, is certainly of the most vital importance to the future well-being of your community, principally for the reasons you have mentioned, but also on sanitary grounds. The typhoon of 1874, as you are aware, caused very great loss of life amongst the Chinese population, and I am informed that the burial of several thousand corpses in a part of the island which at one time was used as a Sanatorium by the European residents caused the locality to become very unhealthy and unfit for habitation. The recent plague has drawn attention to the great necessity of an extension for sanitary purposes of the colony's boundaries. The remedy would appear to lie in the direction of obtaining a sufficiently attractive *quid pro quo* to induce the Central Government to grant the concessions set forth in your Chairman's remarks. (In reply to a member, Sir Claude was understood to say that cases of purchase of territory by one State from another have occurred from time to time). In conclusion you may rest assured that the matters you have mentioned will receive my close attention and that I shall take an early opportunity of bringing them to the notice of the Central Government.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD AT SHANGHAI.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION BANQUET.

At Shanghai on the 10th April Sir Claude MacDonald, K.C.M.G., the new British Minister to China, was entertained at a complimentary banquet by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association. Mr. R. M. Campbell presided, having on his immediate right the guest of the evening.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of the evening, said—Your Excellency, it is with pleasure that I offer you on behalf of the British residents in China, so far as they are represented by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, on your arrival in this country to take up the important duties to which you have been commissioned, a most hearty welcome. (Applause.) You will understand that in the circumstances which existed in this country at the time of the departure of your predecessor, and during the somewhat lengthy time that elapsed before his successor was appointed, we in China were impatient and anxious to know who our new Minister was to be. (Hear, hear.) Rumour mentioned many names, but not yours amongst the number. When at last the telegraph informed us that you were coming; when we had made ourselves acquainted with the distinguished and useful service that you had performed for our country in other parts of the world (hear, hear); when we realised with satisfaction that you had had no previous official connection with this country (laughter, and hear, hear); or that you

probably did not know, and would not desire to acquire, its language (renewed laughter); and when, last, but by no means least, we saw that you were not as you were painted in a recent portrait (laughter); we felt satisfaction that Her Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs when he chose you to represent Great Britain in China had at last arrived at the conclusion that the time had come when diplomatic relations between the two countries should be changed. It would not be becoming in me to-night to endeavour to obtain from you your views upon subjects which, though we might think them of great importance to us, we can quite understand you would naturally prefer to make yourself familiar with before you express yourself in one way or the other. But this Association will no doubt take an early opportunity of bringing before you, and, perhaps, even pressing before you, its views upon certain subjects. When those subjects, as it may be, commend themselves to you as being worthy of attention, and when your opinion about them may coincide with ours, but when the moment may not be opportune for pressing them, we trust that you will take us sufficiently into your confidence to nourish us and feed us with such hope as you may find possible instead of that "favourable consideration" which up till now has been deemed sufficient nourishment for us. (Hear, hear.) When you were speaking in Hongkong the other day you were speaking on British soil, to a British community. But to-night you are an honoured guest of the British community, but we recognise that in Shanghai the position is not quite the same. But speaking generally to your fellow-subjects you told them that we should see that the glorious heritage of our forefathers should be upheld. (Hear, hear.) That, sir, is precisely our view, and that is what we have always aimed at. I am sorry to say that I do not think that it has been upheld, but if that is so it is not the blame of the community of Hongkong or the various British communities that are dispersed through China. (Hear, hear.) You also told us that China was a great country with great possibilities of trade. While I entirely agree with you that China is a great country, as far as her people, as distinguished from her officials, are concerned, while we all think that her trade possibilities are very great, we believe, that for the last generation and more, such advantages as we have, apart from those which we have lately acquired through the Japanese (hear, hear), have been acquired for the most part by British merchants for themselves, and we regret that the officials of this country have not been prevented, from the highest to the lowest, from placing all the obstacles they pleased in any paths of ours, except those which lead backwards. Placed as we are in Shanghai, governing ourselves so far as we are allowed to do so without official help, I trust that you have arrived at the conclusion that we have good reason to feel satisfied with the result. At present we are, and for some time past have been, under the able management of our friend Mr. J. L. Scott, but in Shanghai all foreigners of whatever nationality are welcome. We wish that they should come here and enjoy all the advantages on the same terms that we enjoy them. We do not dread competition of any kind from anybody. We do not wish to fight with anybody, but we are prepared to compete with anybody who desires to compete with us, but we do resent official interference from whatever side it comes, in whatever way it is presented, and we trust you will place us in this country in the position we have held before, which can only be properly described as being second to none. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I hope that you will drink a bumper in honour of Sir Claude MacDonald, to tell him that you wish him in this country a career of prosperity which will bring happiness and honour to our country, to this country, and to himself (applause), and to tell him that we entirely agree with that very pretty ode which appeared in his honour this morning, and which we believe, although we do not know, was written by a member of the China Association; and also to tell him that, if he desires it, in us, the China Association, he will find his most loyal supporters and true friends. (Hear, hear.)

The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm, which was increased by the appearance of Sergeant Menzies in Highland costume, who marched round the room playing the bagpipes.

Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, in reply, said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I beg to thank you most heartily for the very kind and enthusiastic manner in which you have drunk my health; also for the very cordial welcome which you have given me here to-night. This is the third time that I have had the great pleasure of meeting the China Association within the last few weeks—first, as you well know, in London, then again in Hongkong, and then again here to-night, and I for one can say that though their numbers may be limited, as was stated in the speech in Hongkong, their kindly good feelings and cordiality are altogether without any limit whatever, and I am sure my friends here to-night will agree with me in that. Gentlemen, in addressing the members of your Association in Hongkong I took the liberty of reminding them of the noble legacy which has been handed down to us here in the Far East by our forefathers. Gentlemen, it was not for me to remind them of this. Everything around us reminds us of it, the Straits Settlements, Penang, Singapore, Malacca, Hongkong, the Treaty Ports, and last, but by no means least, Shanghai. (Cheers.) And I ask, are we to sit down and see the glory pass by? I, for one, say, "No!" (Loud and prolonged cheering.) But if this is not to be, and it is not to be (hear, hear), I say we must gird up our loins for the struggle that is before us—for the struggle that is now going on around us. There was a time when our supremacy here in the Far East was unchallenged. Gentlemen, those days have changed, and we have here very keen competitors in our European neighbours. We must stand shoulder to shoulder, not in any spirit of selfishness or aggressiveness, but as one family, to uphold and extend the noble legacy of which I have spoken. (Cheers.) So far as I myself am concerned, I can assure you, gentlemen, that I am entering on the task, the difficult task, before me, with all my heart and soul, fully conscious that if I do what I consider right and best for the general community I shall receive the cordial support of every individual member. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, at the beginning of things I cannot enter into any discussion with regard to the questions that are before me, and therefore I can only again thank you most heartily for the very, very, very kind way in which you have received the toast of my health to-night. (Loud applause, the company present rising and giving "Three cheers and a tiger for Sir Claude MacDonald.")

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

On the 11th inst. Sir Claude MacDonald received at the residence of Sir Nicholas Hannen the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, consisting of Messrs. A. P. MacEwen (Chairman), C. J. Dudgeon (Vice-Chairman), John Graham, A. Korff, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, D. M. Moses, E. B. Skottowe, and A. Wasserfall, and Drummond Hay, the Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN, after introducing the members of the Committee, said—The Committee of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, which consists of some of the leading Bankers and Merchants of various nationalities in this place, have asked for an interview with your Excellency in order that they may offer their congratulations on your appointment as British Minister at Peking, and to welcome your arrival in China, and at the same time we take the opportunity of bringing to your notice certain matters affecting the interests of this Settlement and its foreign trade. We have no desire to go into wearisome details or to elicit opinions from you on questions which must be as yet strange to your Excellency, but simply seek to have a friendly conversation on points upon which we are all interested, and about which we shall be pleased to give you any information you may desire. One of the most important questions affecting foreign trade is the Likin Tax levied by the Chinese, a subject which the Chamber has already laid before the Diplomatic Body, but quite recently foreigners of British and other nationalities have largely invested capital

in cotton mills and other industrial factories, and there is some uncertainty as to the taxation of their products, and as the Japanese Commercial Treaty, which was expected to deal with this matter, is far from being concluded, foreign merchants feel that a speedy settlement of the question is very desirable. Altogether independently of this Commercial Treaty, industrial machinery was imported under long existing Treaty rights, but for purposes of their own the Chinese authorities imposed many vexatious obstructions against such importation. A test case was tried by a foreign firm, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and, thanks to the energies of Mr. Consul Jamieson and the support given by the British Minister, the obstruction of the Chinese officials was just about to be overcome, when the term of the Shimonoseki Treaty accidentally supplied them with the motive for giving way on all points at once. I mention this point because it is mistakenly supposed that the importation of industrial machinery is due to the Japanese, but this is far from being the case, as it was due to our assertion of our just treaty rights, won many years ago, and on the same grounds we look for protection of our industries when in full working order, and that no advantages should be granted to native manufactories which are not equally allowed to those under foreign auspices, and we confidently hope that you, H.B.M.'s Minister, will firmly support our rights. In the case of merchandise from the interior, the Treaties as they stand only provide for the application of the Transit Pass system to produce *if boni fide intended for shipment to a foreign port*, but in view of the starting of large manufactories at the ports, it is necessary that the privileges for Transit Pass be extended to produce brought from the interior for use in the factories; this privilege has for some years been nominally extended to the bringing down of silk cocoons to the Shanghai Filatures, but is entirely negated by the imposition of a "growers' tax," levied by the Chinese authorities on the producers or sellers in the interior, and which amounts to four or five times the amount of the likin! It is necessary that proper safeguards be taken against the levying of any such irregular taxation. The method of issuing Transit Passes now in vogue is one that hampers trade to a very great extent, but the Chamber have recently received a despatch on this question from the Diplomatic Body through the Board of Consuls, which unfortunately shows that the high Chinese authorities will concede no facilities as desired, though a revision of the existing regulations is urgently needed. All we ask is that Transit Passes should be issued directly by the Commissioner of Customs, without the needless delay of having to apply to the Taotai. The Chamber have also addressed the Board of Consuls on the subjects of the River Conservancy and the Yangtze Regulations, both of which have important bearings on foreign trade, and foreign merchants look forward to the good offices of the Diplomatic Body in obtaining for them the reforms which they anxiously desire. I am glad to be in a position to inform your Excellency that, after long delay, the Chamber have been able to make arrangements with the eminent engineers, Messrs. Coode, Son and Mathew, in conjunction with Sir Charles Hartley, to make a preliminary survey of the Woosung Bar, so that they will be able to lay before the Chinese Government a comprehensive and practical scheme for the removal of a great obstruction to the trade of this port, which inflicts on shipowners continual expense and is a source of constant danger to navigation. A proposal has already gone to Peking for the extension of the Settlement of Shanghai, which is rendered necessary on sanitary grounds, and for preserving order and good government. It has been incontestably proved that the Chinese appreciate our Municipal control, and owing to the enormous increase of the native population, there is a great danger of overcrowding unless all buildings in the immediate neighbourhood of the present Settlement are placed under Municipal supervision; and the extension of the present limits is so urgently needed that we hope the proposal made for it will receive all the support your Excellency can give it. The

Revision of the Land Regulations is also a very important matter. Some twelve years ago a draft of Revised Regulations was forwarded to Peking, but was lost sight of by the Foreign Ministers and nothing has since been heard of them, though much time, care, and money were expended by the foreign community in drawing them up. The great change that has taken place in the Settlement within the last few years has rendered a further revision necessary, and a draft of the proposed Regulations will be forwarded to Peking shortly, the principal object sought being that of obtaining for the Municipal Council better means of control of the Settlement; of furthering sanitary measures, and also of affording them power to widen the streets, and we sincerely hope that the newly Revised Regulations will meet with the approval of the Foreign Ministers. The British postal authorities recently suggested that when the present mail contract with the P. & O. Company expires in January, 1898, Hongkong should be made the terminal point instead of Shanghai and against this suggestion the Chamber has already protested as being calculated to materially affect not only British interests, but generally the foreign trade of this port. In drawing your Excellency's attention to these various points I would venture to point out that it is done with no selfish and exclusive object of preferring British interests to the disadvantage of others, for long experience has proved that measures which benefit British trade benefit that of all other nationalities, and we have not yet found that the Far East is too small for our joint and friendly commercial energies. Finally I have to thank your Excellency for allowing us the opportunity of meeting you and of speaking to you about these various questions which affect our commercial life, and will you permit me to add that we merchants are firmly of opinion that foreign trade would benefit greatly if we had more frequently an opportunity of meeting those who diplomatically represent our respective countries in this Empire.

In reply Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD thanked the Committee for the kind welcome extended to him and expressed his gratification at having an opportunity of being able to talk over with the Committee some of the important questions bearing on the foreign trade of Shanghai, but they would, of course, understand that these questions were new to him, so that he was not in a position to give any definite reply to them. The fact was, that on such points he was seeking information which the Chamber were in a position to afford him. But of one thing they might rest assured, that when he reached Peking he would not lose sight of the various subjects laid before him, but would make it his especial business to ascertain full particulars from his colleagues about all matters already put into their hands, and join energetically with them in pressing for needed reforms. He fully recognised that the question of likin was one of great magnitude, and it was difficult to say how it could be effectively dealt with without rousing great opposition from the officials throughout the country, but he would do his utmost to support our treaty right. He was pleased to see it recognised that the recent official opposition to the importation of industrial machinery was overcome by British diplomatic action, and that foreigners were not indebted to the Japanese for this, as was mistakenly supposed. As regards transit passes, the complaints made against the system of issue in vogue were fully justified, and the difficulty in which merchants were placed had been lucidly explained to him. He should certainly consult his colleagues about this matter on arrival at Peking and hoped that they might succeed in obtaining the reasonable concessions demanded. As regarded the necessity for the extension of the Settlement he could see that for himself, and for sanitary and other reasons it was no doubt necessary. He was pleased to have it explained to him that the proposed extension met with the approval of the Foreign Ministers at Peking, and therefore hoped it would be carried out before long. As regarded the British mail contract, after what was told him he could understand that it was not desirable that the terminal point should be Hongkong, and he thought it would be as well for the Chamber to address him on the subject, and he would then

take some action. He fully agreed with the statement that it was desirable that diplomatic representatives should meet their nationals frequently, and so far as he was concerned he should make an effort to do so, though it was difficult for him at present to say how and when this could be done.

Mr. MACLEWEN, in thanking Sir Claude MacDonald for his kind reception of the Committee of the Chamber, said—It only remains for me to assure your Excellency that you will receive from the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce all the support and assistance we may have in our power to render you, and that our warmest wishes are extended to you, for every success in the onerous and responsible position you have been called upon to fill.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead forwards to us the following correspondence with a request for its publication "for the information of the members of the Chamber of Commerce and the community generally":—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE HON.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
10th April, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, requesting to be furnished with a copy of a letter which you understand was addressed by His Excellency the Governor to the Senior Unofficial Member and which you presume gave the lines on which the Sanitary Board should be reconstructed, and expressing a hope that the Government will not fail to publish all the papers on the subject of the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board.

In reply I am to state that, though search has been made, no such communication as that to which you refer can be found among the archives of this office, and, as regards the publication of papers respecting the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board, I am to refer you to the answer given to the question on this subject asked by you in the Legislative Council.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, &c., &c., &c.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO COLONIAL
SECRETARY

Hongkong, 13th April 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 10th instant, in reply to mine of 1st idem, and note that though search has been made for the letter addressed by His Excellency the Governor to the Senior Unofficial Member giving the lines on which the Sanitary Board should be reconstructed, no such communication can be found among the archives of your office. Before asking the Government, I appealed to the Senior Unofficial Member for a copy of the communication in question, but Mr. Chater informs me that he is unable to lay his hands upon it.

Your letter further informs me that the Government will not publish the further papers I have asked for on the subject of the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board. If any Colonial Office rule or regulation stands in the way of the Council getting the benefit of the publication of the documents asked for, I would suggest that His Excellency the Governor might telegraph to the Secretary of State for the necessary sanction.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

To the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, &c., &c.,

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
10th April, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to request the Chamber of Commerce to be good enough to state whether the opinion of the Chamber on the subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as that expressed in the letters of the Chairman, Mr. Keswick, dated 19th

October and 12th November, 1894, and by Mr. McConachie when he was representing the Chamber in the Legislative Council in his minute attached to Mr. Keswick's letter of the 12th November, 1894, or whether the opinion of the Chamber has changed and is now the entirely divergent view expressed by Mr. Whitehead, who at present represents the Chamber in the Legislative Council.

His Excellency understands that the purely British members of the Chamber amount to about fifty, and he will be glad to know whether Mr. Whitehead has received any mandate from those members as a body to oppose the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee, the unofficial members of which were Mr. Keswick, Mr. Chater, and Mr. Jackson, all members of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. McConachie, when representing the Chamber in the Legislative Council.

If a change has taken place in the views formerly held by the Chamber, His Excellency will be obliged if you will be good enough to state for his information the reasons which have led to the change.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1896.

Gentlemen,—I beg to hand you copy of a letter of this date, addressed by me to His Excellency the Governor in part reply to a communication dated 10th instant from the Colonial Secretary to the Secretary of the Chamber.

You will observe that I have ventured to question the assumption contained in the Colonial Secretary's letter that in political matters I am the representative of the Chamber in the sense in which the word "represent" is used in the Colonial Secretary's letter. In all matters affecting trade and commerce I have always consulted the Committee and the members of the Chamber of Commerce, and striven to represent their views, and I shall always do so. On matters outside the scope and objects of the Chamber of Commerce, as is the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board, I submit that I represent the community at large, and I endeavour to the best of my ability to ascertain the opinions of the bulk of the residents, and to put them forward, reserving, however, my own complete freedom of opinion. I deny the existence of any "mandate" as un-British and unconstitutional.

I much regret that the Chamber's late Chairman, Mr. Keswick, should have pledged the Chamber to any expression of opinion on a purely Municipal question without first submitting the matter to the members of the Chamber for their deliberation and consideration, and first obtaining their views. At the same time his course is defensible, as the Chamber might fairly claim a right to call the attention of the Government to the grave injury that had been done the colony and its trade by defects in Sanitary Legislation and Administration generally. The question has, however, ceased to be a general one, and the Bill now before the Legislative Council is simply one for the reorganisation of the Sanitary Board and as to the number and class of members by whom it is to be composed.

I humbly submit for your consideration that the course for the Committee to adopt will be to reply to the Government that in the present form in which the question of the Sanitary Board is now before the Council the Committee has no opinion, and it is not, as a purely commercial and cosmopolitan body, qualified to express any opinion on a question of purely Municipal concern.

As to the suggestion that you should report on the opinions and actions of the British members of the Chamber, that of course is impossible, as you can only speak for the Association as a whole, foreigners and British alike. If the Government desires to obtain the opinion of the British subjects in the colony, it can very easily convene a public meeting.

Please note that I will send a copy of this correspondence to the local Press, for the information of the members of the Chamber

of Commerce and the community.—I am, gentlemen, yours very truly.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

To the Committee of the

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1896.

Sir,—As a member of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have seen the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 10th instant addressed to the Secretary of the Chamber, in which, by your Excellency's direction, the Committee of the Chamber is requested to state whether its opinion on the subject of the Sanitary Board remains the same as that expressed in certain letters of Mr. Keswick's dated the 19th October and 12th November, 1894, and by Mr. McConachie in a minute attached to one of Mr. Keswick's letters, or whether the opinion of the Chamber is now in accordance with the views expressed by me, who, in the words of the Colonial Secretary's letter, "represent at present the Chamber in the Legislative Council." The Committee of the Chamber, in the same letter, is further requested to state whether I have any mandate from the purely British members of the Chamber as a body to oppose the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee (the Unofficial Members of which were Mr. Keswick, Mr. Chater, and Mr. Jackson, all members of the Chamber) and by Mr. McConachie when representing the Chamber, and to state their reasons for any change of opinion, if there has been any change.

I have no doubt that your Excellency will receive from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, in due course, a reply to your request for information as to the present attitude of the Chamber with reference to the Sanitary Board and its reconstitution, although there may be some delay, as the Committee will, doubtless, feel bound now to call a general meeting to consider the matter, a precaution which Mr. Keswick and Mr. McConachie do not seem to have taken before addressing the Government in October and November, 1894.

As to your Excellency's request for information as to whether I have any mandate from the purely British members of the Chamber to oppose the views expressed as to the Sanitary Board by the Retrenchment Committee, and Mr. Keswick, Mr. Chater, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. McConachie, I think it better, after very full and careful consideration, to reply to you myself direct, as I am afraid that the constitution of the Chamber does not afford any facilities for obtaining the opinion of a section of its members, and on a purely municipal, and not a commercial question, and as, moreover, your request seems to be based on certain assumptions to which I cannot at all give my assent and on which I may have to ask your Excellency to obtain the opinion of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Permit me to point out that I do not, in the sense in which the expression is used in the letter now under reply, "represent" the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council. It is a convenient way of designating me, in compliance with the Parliamentary rule that forbids the use of names in debate, to speak of me as the Representative of the Chamber of Commerce, and although I am elected and nominated by the Chamber of Commerce, I am appointed by the Queen, and I represent on the Council, together with my colleagues, the general interests of the community and not of any particular section of it. I am no more the representative of the Chamber on the Council than Messrs. Bell-Irving and Belilios are the representatives of the Government on the Council, because they are selected and nominated for the honour by your Excellency.

Neither has the Government, at any time, recognised the Member of Council nominated by the Chamber, as representing it, or entitled to speak on its behalf. When the Government has desired, for any purpose, to ascertain the opinion or obtain the advice of the Chamber it has invariably addressed itself by letter to the Chairman or to the Committee of the Chamber.

As to your Excellency's reference to a "mandate," and your request to be informed if I have a "mandate" from the British members

of the Chamber of Commerce to oppose the Sanitary Board Bill, may I be permitted to remind your Excellency that only the Chamber as a whole—British and foreigners combined—could give me a mandate, if such a thing were possible, and that I could not be the *mandataire* of a section of the Chamber. But there is on such thing as a mandate known to English Parliamentary practice. It is a foreign invention, and Members of Legislatures in Great Britain and her Colonies have always refused to be the *mandataires* of their electors. They have always claimed, no matter by whom elected, to exercise their own intelligence on all questions coming before the Legislative Bodies of which they were members and to act according to the best of their judgment for the interests of the entire community and not according to the views of their immediate electors.

As to the general question, my own opinion is that if the community was fairly canvassed on the subject, a considerable majority of the British residents would be found to be in favour of a popularly elected Sanitary Board, with adequate powers and an efficient staff, in preference to any Board on which there was an official majority, and I should be very glad indeed to co-operate with your Excellency in obtaining a *plebiscite* on the subject. It will be an immense step in advance in the methods of Colonial Government should your Excellency think well to apply it.

As to my own opinions I have expressed none as yet in Council on the subject, except in so far as I have said, what I think the Government admit, that it is a retrograde step to have to change back from the popularly constituted Board, established in 1888, to the older form of Sanitary government by a Department or by a Board with an official majority unless there are very grave reasons to justify the step. Your Excellency has expressed yourself as favourable to popular forms of government where possible. I am open to conviction, and if the Government or the gentlemen who advocate the views and opinions of the Government are able to satisfy me on reasonable evidence that the presence of an unofficial majority on the Sanitary Board was the cause of its failure, if it did fail to perform the responsible duties entrusted to it, I am prepared to vote for its reconstitution on the lines of the present Bill or any other the Government may introduce, but I can find no evidence to that effect. The statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill now before the Council refers to the experience of the plague year as justifying the proposed alteration, and as the basis of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I was not in Hongkong during the greater portion of that year, but from what I then read in the public journals, from my letters, and from what I have learned since my return, I gather that the Sanitary Board rendered during that period most efficient service, and that, if never before, it then fully justified the highest hopes that had ever been placed on it. It grappled with the plague most promptly, most vigorously, and most effectively.

I have been seeking, ever since my return to the colony, for the evidence on the other side, and I can find none. Your Excellency refuses to produce the official reports and correspondence on the subject, and even the Secretary of State's letter approving of the draft Bill. You have only put forward in support of the Bill the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, and the letters and memoranda of Mr. Keswick, Mr. Chater, Mr. Belilios, and Mr. McConachie. These are mere expressions of opinion wholly unsupported by facts. They are, to my mind, completely countervailed by Dr. Ho Kai's very full and very able memorandum issued with the other papers. As to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Commission I can only say that, however valuable the opinions of the individual members who concurred in it may be, it ought not to carry any such weight as attaches to the opinion of a public committee investigating a matter properly before it. It seems to me to have been entirely outside the scope of their commission, and, what is far more important, on a matter on which they had not taken evidence. I have had the Blue Book report most carefully searched, and I can only find six pages of

evidence with reference to the working of the Sanitary Board, as distinguished from the expenditure under the head of Sanitation, and the Committee had actually no evidence before it at all as to the work done by the Sanitary Board during the plague nor as to its constitution. The only clear expression of opinion on the subject is by Mr. Crooke at page 167, and he was decidedly in favour of the Board. Such defects as were indicated and such opinions as were given seemed to point more to want of executive power in the Board and to want of a sufficient staff through want of funds than to any need for the reconstitution of the Board. The only reform your Excellency now proposes is the reduction in the number of unofficial members on the Board, and I want some evidence that the presence of an unofficial majority was the cause of its failure, if it did fail.

As to Mr. Keswick's letter in the name of the Chamber of Commerce I have already pointed out that it was written without consulting the Chamber as a whole in any way. I find that the movement was initiated by Mr. Keswick himself, that there was, apparently, no discussion of the matter at any meetings of the Committee, and that the letter, drafted by Mr. Keswick, was simply sent round to members for their individual approval, was disapproved of by Mr. Mackintosh for one, received but a half-hearted and lukewarm support, and hung fire for a couple of months before it could be got away. Being a purely political and municipal question it was not, it seems to me, within the competence of the Chamber to discuss. The Chamber had the right to call the attention of the Government to the grave injury done to trade by the insanitary state of the colony, but it is hardly within its competence as a cosmopolitan body to advise the Government as to the constitution of any of the departments of the Government, or as to the best methods of getting the Government work done.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.
His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

PRESENTATION TO MR. R. COOKE.

On Saturday evening the staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, gave a dance at the Hon. C. P. Chater's bungalow at Kowloon, kindly lent for the occasion, in honour of Mr. R. Cooke, the Acting Manager of the Company, and Mrs. Cooke, who are shortly leaving for home on a holiday. A large number of friends had been invited to meet the guests of the evening and the dance was a most enjoyable one. The music was supplied by the Band of H.M.S. *Centurion*. After supper an interesting function took place, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke being presented with a handsome tea service.

The presentation was made on behalf of the staff by Mr. D. MACDONALD, who read the following address:—

Dear Mr. Cooke,—As the time for leaving us on a holiday drew near, a desire arose among the members of the Company's staff that we should not permit you to depart without making an opportunity for giving some slight expression of the esteem and regard in which we hold you. We have therefore invited you and Mrs. Cooke, together with some of your numerous friends, to meet us here this evening. We would like to express to you, sir, our high appreciation of the very able manner in which you have during many years filled the various responsible positions over us in the service of the Company; and we are very satisfied that while you have devoted your untiring efforts in the best interests of the Company to which we all have the honour of being attached, you have not been forgetful of the welfare and personal interests of your fellow employees. (Applause.) We have found you all that a Manager should be—firm, but generous and fair—and your tact and good management have inspired us with an enthusiasm in our work which has materially contributed to the welfare of the Company and ourselves. (Applause.) As a small token of our esteem and respect, we ask your acceptance of this tea service, which we hope you and Mrs. Cooke may find useful, and may

you enjoy therefrom many a refreshing cup. We ask you to accept this, not for its own small value, but for the sincerity of the feeling which has prompted the gift. The workings of time, fate, and fortune's wheel must inevitably lead some of us on divergent paths, and we want you and Mrs. Cooke to carry with you this slight lasting token of the good wishes of all those from whom it comes; and in the future, when sitting over your cup of tea, may you sometimes be able to conjure up in the wreaths of rising steam some of the faces which you now see around you. (Applause.) We trust that nothing may interrupt the enjoyment of your well-earned holiday; we wish you smooth seas and fair breezes, a safe and pleasant journey home, a happy reunion with the dear ones in the old country, and may you find in your son, from whom you have been many years parted, the realization of your fondest hopes and highest ambition. May you both be given a speedy and complete restoration to full health and strength, and when the time comes for your return to Hongkong, you may be assured of the most hearty welcome from us. (Applause.)

Mr. MACDONALD then asked the company to drink to the health of Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, and the toast was received with musical honours and three cheers and a tiger, with another for "Charlie."

Mr. COOKE, who was much affected, thanked Mr. Macdonald and the Company's staff for the kind feelings expressed towards his wife and himself, for the entertainment that had been offered them that evening, and for the very handsome present made to them, which they would value most highly on account of the feelings that prompted it. He spoke at some length on the diligence and devotion of the staff, which had contributed so largely to the prosperity of the Company during the last few years, and expressed the opinion that nowhere east of Suez could a finer body of men be found. Although he had taken no active part in their sports and pastimes he had taken a keen interest in them; he rejoiced in their victories and felt their defeats, though happily the latter had been very few—(laughter)—and he was proud to think that they were the champion shots and champion football players of the colony. (Applause.) He spoke also in feeling terms of the personal friendship that existed between himself and each member of the staff, and expressed his regret that Mr. Gillies, the Manager, could not join them that evening on account of his absence from the colony. He expressed the hope that his own connection with the Company would continue for many years to come, and again thanked the staff for their great kindness and the expressions used towards Mrs. Cooke and himself and their son, who, he hoped, would also be seen again in Hongkong. In conclusion he asked those who were not connected with the Company to join in drinking to the health of the staff of the Dock Company, excluding himself, and coupled the toast with the name of Mr. G. A. Caldwell.

Mr. CALDWELL made a brief and witty reply, after which dancing was resumed.

The proceedings were brought to a close at midnight, when "Auld Lang Syne" was sung and Mr. Cooke was carried round the room.

On the 31st March Tientsin sustained one of those disasters to which it unfortunately seems to be getting more and more liable. The Tientsin Reach suddenly silted up, so that there was only nine feet of water, and the steamers *Wosang*, *Hsin-yu*, and *Fung-shun* had to discharge their cargoes in the river. The *Wo-sang* came to the Bund, and has got away again, but the other steamers were unable to get much further than the Tientsin Bend. The bed of the river has continued to rise daily, and now there is only 8 eight feet at the top of high water. The deposit seems to be similar to that of 1890, and forms a sort of cement that does not readily scour away. We are afraid that there is not much chance of steamers reaching the Bund for some months now. The Taku Tug and Lighter Company is experiencing great difficulty in overtaking the work, as only three or four of the tugs can work in the shallow reaches, and the lighters cannot be loaded over 7 feet 6 inches.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

The annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial Hospital was held at the Hospital on the afternoon of the 20th April. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided, and there were also present—Hon. A. McConachie, Dr. Chalmers, Dr. J. C. Thomson (Secretary), Mr. W. H. Wickham (Treasurer), and Mr. G. Murray Bain.

The first business was the election of Chairman for the ensuing year.

Dr. THOMSON—I have very much pleasure in proposing that we re-elect Mr. Stewart Lockhart to the office of Chairman. Mr. Stewart Lockhart has been Chairman for the past year or two during troublous times, which he has seen safely through, and I should like to see this year something like the ease and comfort which characterised the chair in ordinary times. I therefore propose that Mr. Stewart Lockhart be reappointed Chairman. (Applause.)

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—I beg to second. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you very much for the honour you have again conferred upon me in re-electing me to this important post, and I hope, and trust that the ease and comfort which Dr. Thomson has promised will become a reality.

The report of the sub-committee appointed to consider Dr. Young's bequest was read and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. BAIN, seconded by Mr. WICKHAM, to confirm the action taken by the sub-committee.

On the motion of Hon. A. McCONACHIE, seconded by Dr. CHALMERS, the report and accounts were adopted and passed.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the formal business we have to transact, but there is one other matter which I regret I have to bring to your notice. Mr. Wickham is about to leave for England for a well-earned holiday, and he has found it necessary on that account to send in his resignation of the post of hon. treasurer. As you are all aware, Mr. Wickham has discharged the onerous duties of that post for many years, and has fulfilled them in a manner satisfactory in every way to the hospital and to the public generally—(applause);—and I am sure I am expressing the feelings of all the members of the Finance Committee when I say that it is with great regret that we have to part with the services which have been so generously rendered by Mr. Wickham. (Applause). It will be exceedingly difficult to find a successor, and in order to facilitate matters in that direction Mr. Wickham has kindly promised not to resign his post until every effort has been made to find someone who will undertake the duties which he is about to give up. With a view to a satisfactory settlement of this matter I suggest that a sub-committee be appointed to find a successor to Mr. Wickham, the sub-committee to consist of the Superintendent, the Chairman, and the Treasurer himself.

Dr. THOMSON—I beg to second the proposal, and in doing so I should like to add to Mr. Stewart Lockhart's remarks about Mr. Wickham's work. I have been most closely in contact with Mr. Wickham during the past four years, and he has been most ungrudging in his labour and most ungrudging in the time he has put at our disposal, and he has always generously met all the demands made upon him in connection with the post. (Applause.) I think we ought to give him our thanks, and our very great appreciation of his kind work for us ought to be put on the minutes of the Committee. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—Before we leave I think I am expressing the views of the Finance Committee when I say that they regard the work of the hospital during the past year as having been conducted in a most successful manner. That success is in a great measure, if not entirely, due to the exertions of our tactful superintendent, Dr. Thomson. (Applause.) I think I may safely say that so long as he is superintendent of this hospital it is bound to succeed in the future as it has done in the past. I trust the public will support the hospital during the coming year as they have done in the past, seeing the good work it has done and seeing the excellent way it has been managed under

the able superintendence of Dr. Thomson. (Applause.)

The meeting then ended.

The following is the balance sheet:—

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

During twelve months, 1st February, 1895, to 31st January, 1896.

31st Jan. 1896.	Dr.	\$.	c.
To donations as per donation list		7,358.38	
To special donations from:—			
Childrens' theatricals, per Miss Barker		\$25.00	
Market Charitable Fund, per Hon. Registrar-General		50.00	
Mount Austin concerts, per W. E. Crow, Esq.		737.50	
Samaritan Fund, support of nurse probationer		30.00	
		812.50	
To refund of scholarships		615.60	
To rent from College of Medicine		120.00	
To interest on Permanent Fund, Bellios Medicine Fund, Young Bequest, and current account		1,205.37	
To bonus on fire insurance		3.98	
To Dr. Richard Young's Residuary Legacy, £1,350		12,342.83	
		\$22,488.06	

1st Feb., 1895.	Cr.	\$.	c.
By balance from last account		1,056.98	
31st Jan., 1896.			
By salaries, wages, and scholarships		3,307.50	
By food of poor patients		\$24.36	
By medicines and surgical appliances ..		3,793.47	
By clothing and bedding		92.41	
By ordinary repairs during the year		72.45	
By special repairs		1,307.54	
By stationery, printing, Crown rent, fire insurance, laundry, and petty charges ..		439.19	
By sundry expenses, as per House Surgeon's monthly memos		568.28	
By purchase of 160 shares in Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, out of Dr. Young's Legacy		\$10,967.50	
By stamp and transfer fee of the same		12.80	
		10,980.30	
By balance to credit of account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		41.58	
		\$22,488.06	

The Sub-committee appointed at Monday's meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals to arrange for a successor to Mr. W. H. Wickham as Hon. Treasurer have secured the services of Mr. W. H. Whiting, Chief Constructor, H.M. Dockyard, who will from this date hold the office.

THE SINKING OF THE "EXE."

On the morning of the 14th April a survey was made of the *Exe* in dry dock. She has sustained so much damage that it will take five or six weeks to accomplish the necessary repairs. Her bottom is damaged from the bridge forward and altogether fifty plates are out, while two lengths of the keel will have to be replaced, together with a part of the stem, a large number of frames, and a portion of the double bottom. Considering the extent of the injuries the greatest credit is due to Mr. Pell, the captain of the *Exe*, for his able exertions in getting the vessel afloat again.

In justice to the captain of the *Exe*, Mr. R. Cooke, Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., requests us to state, with reference to our report, that beyond giving a few suggestions he had nothing to do with the salving of the vessel, the whole of the operations having been very ably directed by the captain.

The *Kobe Chronicle* of the 13th April says:—The steamer *Kirkhill*, chartered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, went ashore during a fog about 11 o'clock yesterday morning at a spot about sixty miles from Kobe. Mr. Kaya was the pilot in charge. She soon got off again, however, and proceeded on her way to Bombay. The steamer *Energia* stood by for some little time, but her assistance was not required.

THE WEST RIVER.

In view of the opening of the West River the China Merchants S. N. Company intends to establish a branch at Shui-hing and build a pier there. Some days ago the manager of the Company went with the Magistrate of Ku-In district and a military officer to find a suitable place for the pier, and two sites were selected, the names of the places being Shik-tsui and Tsun-tong. The Company has decided to buy the land from the natives.

We hear that Mr. Wenyon, accompanied by Mr. Cowen, correspondent for the *Times* during the war, started from Canton on an expedition up the West River on Friday last and that they expect to be away about three months, so apparently they are going to push well on to the Tonkin or Burmese frontier. We hear also that later on Mr. Wenyon, accompanied by his brother Dr. Wenyon, intends to make the journey from Canton through to Rangoon. As Dr. Wenyon is an experienced and observant traveller and an able writer and speaker the public will doubtless benefit from his observations on this journey through a country still little known.

Mr. F. W. Watts, of Watts & Co., intends to take a cargo of goods under transit pass to Wuchow. We learn that he duly passed his goods through both the Foreign Customs and the native lekin office and started off from Canton in a large native boat at about noon on Saturday. Mr. Watts was accompanied by a European assistant, Mr. Woods, and a native gentleman who is reported to be a member of a Hongkong legal firm and who will doubtless take notes on the legal bearings of any opposition they may meet or difficulties that may be thrown in their way. We understand that the Consul, Mr. Fraser, telegraphed to Peking to give notice that the party were going to Wuchow, and apparently he got a favourable reply, for he advised them to push right on. They did not engage a launch, to avoid complications.

BRIGANDAGE IN KWANGTUNG.

To give some idea of the boldness of the brigands in the neighbouring province of Kwangtung, some weeks ago a steam launch which was carrying about 12,000 taels in treasure from one point to another had to pass through a narrow creek in the neighbourhood of the Bogue Forts. Notwithstanding the secrecy with which the treasure had been shipped—for owing to the daring of armed thieves great precautions are necessary—a party of robbers were in waiting and as the launch steamed slowly along the narrow channel a line with a small grapnel attached was thrown by them on board the launch and the party then deliberately set to work to drag the launch to the shore in order to board her. Fortunately for the owners of the treasure there were good arms on board for defence and two shots at this short range took effect on two of the piratical gang, wounding them severely and causing the others to bolt. The launch got out of that dangerous vicinity at once. The owners and the people on the launch were so scared at the prospect of the piratical gang watching for an opportunity to avenge themselves at some other time that the name of the launch has been changed and the launch herself painted a different colour in order to conceal her identity. The wounded robbers apparently escaped. What a satire on the Government of the district.

These armed gangs, which are apparently composed largely of disbanded soldiers, are now so daring and have such numerous agents to get information for them that in moving treasure in the country the greatest secrecy is observed by the owners of it, even their own servants being uninformed as to what is going to be done till the moment the treasure is put on board the boat—a steam launch by preference—which is to convey it to its destination.

We learn from Mr. Jno. A. Sullivan's share report that it is rumoured the Yangtze Insurance Co. will add a "Fire" department to its business next year, in consequence of which the shares rushed up last week from \$155 to \$178½, for delivery in August.

THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE CAMPHOR TRADE IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR FORMOSA CORRESPONDENT.]

TOKYO, 12th April.

I noticed in your journal a telegram dated 31st March, from Takow, stating that wholesale arrests of foreign compradores in the camphor district were then being made, etc., etc. While unfamiliar with the details of the arrests, I have been informed that only such compradores as totally disregarded the existing camphor regulations were arrested. A few lines of explanation are necessary. In late November of last year the Japanese authorities framed regulations and published proclamations calling on all persons who had camphor stills, or rights to cut trees, to send in an account of same, together with such documents as had been issued by the Chinese Government proving their ownership or authority to work same. Foreign merchants were deeply interested in the camphor business and had a good deal of money invested. The two large firms in the north both had the necessary papers clear and indisputable, but for some reason (to the writer unknown) the firms in the south were not so provided, although undoubtedly agreements of some kind for the up-country working of the industry had been entered into with the Chinese officials.

Now came the difficulty. It would be an injustice to those foreign firms who after years of labour had built up the industry and whose money was invested in the trade to be turned out of the field without compensation, and it would be equally an injustice to allow new firms to enter the trade when Japanese merchants themselves were barred. It was to deal with both impartially that the new regulations were issued.

But cases arose, particularly in the south, that foreigners who previously had no connection with the camphor industry whatsoever took advantage of the state of affairs and commenced the trade without permission. Notifications were then issued that after three months any persons engaged in the camphor industry, not holding the necessary papers issued by the Chinese Government, must cease such employment.

The three months expired in March (I have not the exact date), the Chinese compradores mentioned in the above telegram did not see fit to comply, and the result is that several arrests have been made. It is specially unfortunate that the two or three large and reliable firms of Anping should be subject to such hardship, but without proof of their former camphor rights it is impossible to separate them from the few irresponsible parties who sought to enter the trade after the island had been ceded to Japan.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF FORMOSA.

There have been so many reports circulated in the vernacular press of Japan to the effect that H. E. Count Kabayama had resigned or was about to resign his post of Governor General of Formosa that I wish to state that His Excellency never entertained such intentions, while, although it is true that he was incapacitated for a few days with a light attack of fever while in Formosa, the illness was not such as to lead him to believe that he was endangering his life by residence in the island. Of course, if the Government of Japan saw fit to engage his services in other directions, he would necessarily comply, but until such occurs he will continue in his present capacity as Governor of Formosa, for which he is so well fitted. This will be agreeable news to his many Formosa friends, who feel that the prosperity of Formosa is so much dependent upon those who are thoroughly familiar with the peculiar conditions existing there, as His Excellency undoubtedly is.

JAS. W. DAVIDSON.

A Japan paper says:—The promoters of a big steamship company propose to open a Japan-San Francisco and a Japan-Vancouver line with eight steamers of between 5,000 and 6,000 tons. The capital, formerly fixed at yen 5,300,000, is now placed at yen 3,700,000. The proposed company's steamers on the San Francisco service will be connected with the Oregon Railway Company.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN FORMOSA.]

The land generally, in the south, is held by the cultivators under Metayer tenure. In the northern, or Taiwanfoo, division, the people seem to be more independent, and therefore well-to-do, than those in the more southern or Takow districts; at least this is true of the cane-planters, who in the latter district have for a long time allowed themselves to drift into a deplorable and apparently irremediable state of debt to a few capitalists. Indeed, as matters now stand, they are little better than serfs working for bare subsistence, and being extremely illiterate are incapable of understanding much less keeping accounts and thus have fallen a ready prey to the money-lenders, who may be said to thus command the whole of the Takow crop. During the past eight or ten years the chief usurer has become so powerful that he may be said to have established a "corner" for himself in Takow sugar, regulating the plantings and therefore the total crop to suit his financial manoeuvres on the ultimate market (Japan).

By a system of compound and usurious interest, ranging from 18 per cent. to 26 per cent., debts beginning at from \$50 to \$100 very rapidly spring up to amounts utterly beyond the capacity of the debtors to discharge, and at last they become desperate and careless. In the Taiwanfoo district, however, this evil has not assumed the same magnitude, and therefore competition amongst the growers having freer scope brings about a more natural ratio between price and actual value of product. While deploring the system prevailing in the Takow district, one cannot help admiring the wonderful organization and administrative ability displayed in watching over the unfortunate victims and their fields. A complete service of field bailiffs is established, who at regular intervals estimate and bring in reports to their chief. As soon as the new cane begins to show above ground, advances are made on the estimated value of the prospective crop, a wide margin being allowed for possible loss or deterioration from flood, wind, or other risks.

After the rainy season another valuation is made and further advances given; when the cane is cut and its sugar extracted the final instalments are paid.

It need scarcely be said that these doles are as small as they can possibly be made compatible with the hand-to-mouth existence of the recipients. These latter declare that even in the best years the capitalists rarely pay more than from \$1 to \$1.20 a picul. Of course, the amount thus credited makes but a small hole in the debt, which not only is increased by the accumulating interest, but also by the unfair manipulations and charges which are invariably added. It may be remarked, however, that the lenders, for obvious reasons, do not look for the payment of the debt, the greater part of which is fictitious and the result of gross imposition, but which nevertheless is a perpetual source of most profitable returns on what is thus only a very small outlay of actual capital. To illustrate this it may be mentioned that when these capitalists dispose, at the port, of the sugar thus got, they would never dream of accepting less than something between \$2.50 and \$3, which, even allowing for the cost of transport from the mills, shows an immediate profit of at least 100 per cent.

The soil in the different districts, and indeed in various parts of the same divisions, differs considerably in its sugar-producing properties. Thus, although no more care in cultivation of the cane or treatment of the juice is shown in the Takow District than in the Taiwanfoo department, the products of the former are much richer in crystallizable sugar, and consequently, grade for grade, of higher commercial value.

The species of plant grown is that known as the "Chinese cane," which locally the growers distinguish into three varieties, based on the thickness and colour of the skin. It has been stated that the Sorghum, or sugar grass, is cultivated in Formosa, but, so far as I know, this is not the case, in the southern part of the island at least.

Through negligence in cultivation the cane

here dwindles to a very small size, the joints only averaging from one to one and a half inches in circumference, and little or no attention seems to be devoted to the plant beyond putting it in the ground. Even for irrigation, which during the periods of small rainfall or drought would be of material advantage, no means whatever are provided.

Plantings are made from cuttings about once in three years. These are first soaked in water for about twenty days until the buds begin to sprout. They are then placed obliquely in the ground, more or less in a line, with one end protruding, the furrow for their reception being scraped with the hands. A little manure is placed over them, but beyond this, with perhaps an exceptional and occasional weeding by some of the more careful growers, nothing further is done. The crops for the intervening two years are raised from "ratoons," and at the end of the third year the roots are dug out and burned.

CANE CRUSHING.

This is effected by stone mills, worked by two and sometimes three buffaloes. These mills are generally set up and owned, in the Takow district, by agents of the usurers. A certain number, usually twelve, of the producers share a right to, or rather are expected to bring their cane to this mill, to which is also attached the boiling house. Each participant must provide two buffaloes if he wishes only to be charged 7 per cent. of the produce from the cane as the cost of manufacture.

In the more southern parts of the island the buffaloes are supplied by the mills, when the unhappy growers are mulcted from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of their product. These mills are erected at the beginning of each season, usually early in December, and are dismantled at its conclusion, the stones being buried in the earth for their preservation. The animals work in spells of from an hour to an hour and a half, according to the time taken to extract, say, about two piculs of juice. There are as a rule four boiler men and four attendants on the mill, working in day and night shifts, besides "cow men."

The following is a description of the mills in use in Formosa, which shows how very far short they come of fulfilling even ordinary requirements, a fact which leads to much loss of product. Two granite rollers, 25 inches in diameter by 30 inches in height, are placed in a position. At the top of each roller a row of depressions is cut, into which are fitted hardwood cogs. By means of the latter the motion is imparted to the right-hand stone from the left-hand one. Wooden spindles are let into the centre of each stone at the top and bottom respectively. By the lower of these the stones fit into a granite or sometimes wooden bed plate, while the top ones project through a transverse wooden binding beam, the left-hand upper spindle being prolonged so as to afford attachment for the lever, at the further end of which the buffaloes are yoked.

The apposition of the rollers to each other is secured and judged according to the ability of the millwright, and as the wooden binding-beam is constantly wearing, and thus the distance between the rollers always varying, the pressure on the cane, only roughly set at first, is most irregular in its application all through. To modify the effects of this as far as possible, the natives pass the cane thrice through the mill, but as the following experiments show, the results obtained are by no means perfect.

Then, again, the frequent stoppages for re-adjustment and repairing the mills are also a constant trouble and drawback. The wooden cogs have also frequently to be replaced, as, indeed, is the case with all the other wooden parts of the machine, causing the mill-owner a never ceasing outlay.

The minimum first cost of one of these mills, not counting the house, is \$150, and besides that, at the commencement of each season, renewing the wooden fittings, erecting the shed, and setting up the mill amounts to at least \$100, and then there is the ever-recurring cost of repairs during the whole time the mill is running.

By careful experiments made alongside of several native mills with those of foreign manufacture, it was found that for every 100 lbs. of cane thrice pressed by the Chinese mill, 50 lbs. weight of juice was extracted from the cane,

as against 68 lbs. got by passage once through the iron mills, showing a gain in favour of the foreign mill of 18 per cent. per weight of cane. The native boilermen all admitted that the juice got either directly from the cane by the foreign mill or from the bagass that they discharged from their own mill was as good, if not better, than that obtained by their own methods.

Calculating out what this means on even the limited crop from the Takow districts to which the usurers have of late years reduced it, (say) 300,000 piculs, it being further remembered that this only comprehends that which is shipped in foreign bottoms, we find that 57,600,000 lbs. of juice are burnt up every year in the bagass. This would give us 108,000 piculs of sugar if manufactured, which, at only \$2.50 per picul, shows a total loss in money, consequent on the imperfections of their mills, of \$270,000, a sum which would show an ample margin of profit if every cane-grower purchased a foreign machine, got his canes crushed in the ordinary way by the Chinese mills, merely contenting himself with using his machine for crushing the bagass as it came out from the native establishment.

In other words, the cost of their fuel is very nearly equal to one-third of the total amount realised on the whole crop of 300,000 piculs. To try and improve this condition amongst the people, Dr. Myers, an authority on the industry, drew up a simple "Primer" on the cultivation of cane and manufacture of raw sugar, which was translated into Chinese by the Acting Commissioner of Customs; but even those whose interests would seem most likely to prompt them to study the question, and whose comparative educational advantages easily enabled them to read what had been written (i.e., the dominating money-lenders and their lieutenants, the mill-owners), could not be got to take much interest in the subject, and, indeed, seemed only to fear lest any innovations, either from instruction or mechanical aids, might interfere with the arrangements, which they said were, "as far as they were concerned, sufficiently remunerative to themselves."

The surroundings of these mills are dirty in the extreme, and the juice flows from the rollers by means of a leaky bamboo pipe, led under a filthy buffalo walk, until it arrives at the first pan, or what ought to be the clarifying receptacle. In the Takow districts the cane tops are ignited, and thus burnt off while the plants are still standing. More or less charred material thus adheres to the cane, discolouring the exposed juice until it is literally as black as ink.

There is here also a complete absence of any attempt at cleanliness; the filthiest hands are dipped and even washed in the juice; and while large pieces of trash, saturated with the fluid they have absorbed, are roughly taken out and thrown away, no efforts are made to get rid of the smaller fragments ("oush-oush").

CLARIFICATION OF JUICE.

Under this heading, beyond stating that lime is added according to the discretion of the boilermen, exercised in very rough and ready fashion, there is little to be further described. The unslaked lime used is kept in a corner of a very dirty room, constantly exposed to the atmosphere, and is full of dirt and other extraneous matter.

There is no attempt at filtration, as the juice is ladled from the receiving pan into the first "tache." The boiling battery consists, as a rule, of from four to five "taches," and under each one is a furnace. As the boilerman, by some rule which it seems impossible to discover, thinks a sufficient amount of concentration has been arrived at in one "tache," he ladles the contents into another, and so on. It is quite possible at any given time that the fires beneath the lower pans are burning less briskly than those under the upper ones; and although the liquor thrown into the first pans shows a low percentage of "invert," by the time it has reached the "striking tache" this has probably been trebled. In the northern districts, where special efforts are made to "grain large," this result is accompanied by a very great loss from inversion. The object of this latter attempt is to get "lao-tsai," the raw material from which so-called "white" is procured by means of claying.

With reference to the other brown varieties

of sugar made in Formosa, it has not been discovered that other than mere chance, perhaps regulated to some slight extent by rough experience, determined either the grain of the product or the amount of crystallisable which happens to survive the crude treatment the liquor has been subjected to all through.

CLAYED OR "WHITE" SUGAR.

This, as before explained, is got from "lao-tsai." Each jar holds from 133½ lbs. to 200 lbs. The clay or mud placed at the top of the jars is that scraped from the bottom of sewers, canals, or ponds, and the natives about Taiwanfoo assert that that got from the bottom of the canal, just outside the city walls, which is in fact nothing but a gigantic sewer, produces sugar with the best taste! This may be due to the fact that the canal, being connected with the sea, always contains more or less salt water, which latter may impart the improved taste.

The following are the proportions of different grades of white sugar got from one picul of "lao-tsai." The top layer of all, equal in amount to 5 per cent. of the whole, is known as "No. 1" white; the second layer (15 per cent.) is known as "No. 2" white; the third layer (25 per cent.) is known as "No. 3" white; the fourth layer (25 per cent.) is known as "No. 4" white; while 30 per cent. of molasses drains out. The latter is reboiled and about 60 per cent. of sugar procured from it. This is known as "cha-soa," and is in some demand in North China.

From the foregoing necessarily brief description of the methods used in Formosa for procuring sugar and the quality of the product obtained, it is hoped some idea may be conveyed as to the extremely backward condition of the industry, and it must distinctly be understood that all here stated only refers, and only can refer, to Formosa as it has been. Now that the Japanese have come as rulers, no doubt they will, by introducing machinery and improving methods both of cultivation and manufacture, very soon set up a different condition of affairs. One great change that is sure to be made is with regard to the usurers and their oppression. As most of their power for evil and tyranny was due to the aid they could always purchase from the corrupt officials around them, this support having of course gone, it is not unlikely that the extortioners will find it best to disappear also.

A spirit ("samshu") is very roughly distilled from molasses that cannot be further utilized at the boiling houses, but the distillation is carried on indiscriminately over the country by any person who cares to buy the molasses.

The skimmings at the mills and other saccharine refuse are generally given to pigs, and the idea of using them for the ground seems to be unthought of. The general waste from this neglect alone is as great as it is deplorable.

A HOME FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM.

The following has been forwarded to us for publication:—

The undersigned has in view the erection at Wanchai of a Home for the aged and infirm. That the necessary funds may be obtained the assistance of the community in general is respectfully solicited and any contribution towards this subscription will be gratefully acknowledged.

L. PIAZZOLI,
Bishop Vi. Apl. of H.K.

LIST OF DONORS.

Mr. A. S. Gomes	...	\$1,000
Mr. A. G. Romano	...	100
Mr. J. C. Noronha	...	200
Mr. T. Jackson	...	250
A Friend	...	50
Procuracion Espanola	...	100
Mr. A. Coxon	...	50
Mr. J. M. G. Machado	...	50
Mr. Leon G. Le Roux	...	50

The Japan Mail of the 10th April says:—The communications between Formosa and Hong-kong, Shanghai, and Amoy are very close, and fears are entertained of an importation of the plague. The authorities are contemplating establishing medical inspection offices at Kelung, Makung, Anping, Tamsui, and Takow.

THE NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at Shanghai, on the 28th April:—

The directors have now to submit to the shareholders the annexed duly audited statement of accounts to 31st December, 1895.

INVESTMENTS.

In connection with the triennial term which expired upon the above date, the directors are glad to be in a position to state that in addition to the profit of Tls. 12,384.17 realized, the Company's investments show considerable appreciation, and the sum of Tls. 10,756.15 at credit of investment fluctuation account has therefore been transferred to the working account.

1894.—After payment of all claims presented during 1895, and the distribution of profits sanctioned at the last general meeting, there remained a balance of Tls. 36,635.34 in favour of this year's working on 31st December last, and in accordance with the power conferred upon the directors the account has now been closed by transferring that amount to liability account to meet further claims upon 1894 and previous years.

1895.—The income of the Company shows an increase both as regards premium and interest, but the directors regret that the result of the year's underwriting is not more favourable, the losses, though not individually heavy, having been unusually numerous.

The balance of the working account on 31st December amounted to Tls. 460,203, against which claims to the extent of Tls. 118,250 have since been paid, and it is probable that Tls. 208,953 will be required to finally wind up the account, leaving an estimated surplus of Tls. 133,000, which the directors recommend for appropriation as follows:—

Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital.

A bonus of 10 per cent. on contributory premia.

REVISION OF THE SHARE LIST.

As prescribed by the articles of association, the share list was revised during the past year and the directors have pleasure in stating that it has not been considered necessary to withdraw any shares.

DIRECTORS.

The directors all retire according to the regulations of the Company, but they are eligible for re-election, and again tender their services to the shareholders.

AUDITORS.

The accounts for the first half year have been audited by Mr. White and Mr. Bell and for the second half year by Mr. White and Mr. Kinneir, the latter acting for Mr. Bell owing to his regrettable indisposition. The appointment for the ensuing year rests with the shareholders, and the retiring auditors offer themselves for re-election.

By order of the Court of Directors,

ALEXR. ROSS,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 14th April, 1896.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

	Dr.	Tls.
To capital account:—		
5,000 shares at £25=£125,000.00 @ 2s. 11½d.		845,070.42
To reserve fund		250,000.00
To working account, 1894:—		
Balance on 31st December, 1894		507,768.80
Deduct—		
1st dividend, being 10 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital, declared 24th April, 1895.		82,474.23
2nd dividend, being 15 per cent. on shareholders' contributions, declared 24th April, 1895		76,899.66
Carried to reserve fund		50,000.00
		209,373.89
		Tls. 298,394.91

Less—	
Amount brought forward from below	261,759.57
	Tls. 36,635.34
Amount transferred to liability account	36,635.34
To working account, 1895:—	
Amount brought forward from below	460,203.10
To liability account for 1894 and previous years	26,307.92
To dividends uncollected	208.12
(Ex. 2s. 11½d. per Tael) Tls.	1,581,789.56

Cr.	Tls.
By cash on current and deposit accounts in Shanghai	152,910.48
By Chinese Imperial Government loan of 1886 (E. issue)	40,000.00
By Shanghai Municipal loan of 1888	21,200.00
By Shanghai Municipal loan of 1890	15,000.00
By Shanghai Municipal loan of 1891	8,634.40
By Shanghai Municipal loan of 1894	15,000.00
By Shanghai Municipal loan of 1895	18,500.00
By Shanghai Land Investment Co.'s 6 per cent. debentures	55,000.00
By Shanghai Waterworks Co.'s 5 per cent. debentures	9,600.00
By mortgage on property in Shanghai	13,000.00
By land and premises—Head office, Shanghai	50,000.00
By London freehold premises	258,978.11
By London branch—Balance, viz:—	
Cash at Bankers and on deposit	£7,192 17 3
Short loans on security	16,000 0 0
India Government securities	27,992 15 7
Colonial Government bonds	26,123 7 4
City of London 3½ per cent. bonds	4,948 18 11
Chinese 6 per cent. gold loan of 1895	5,291 3 4
Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway 4 per cent. pref. stock	3,213 17 0
Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway ordinary stock	4,322 0 0
H.H. Nizam Railway 4 per cent. mortgage debentures	5,102 10 0
Illinois Central Railroad 4 per cent. gold bonds	5,087 11 0
Furniture account—London and Manchester	500 0 0
Premia outstanding, bills receivable, policy stamps and drafts, etc. in course collection	12,546 17 6
	£118,321 17 11
Less—Due to sundries	2,063 14 11
	£116,258.30
By Hongkong branch, balance	38,839.66
By Yokohama branch, balance	7,158.53
By Singapore branch, balance	14,162.48
By furniture at head office, Hongkong, Yokohama, and Singapore branches	3,667.74
By sundry debtors—Premia, etc. outstanding at head office and agencies	67,795.43
Less—Due to sundries	1,627.96
	64,167.57

(Ex. 2s. 11½d. per Tl.) Tls. 1,581,789.56

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894.	
Dr.	Tls.
To balance carried forward	261,759.57
	Tls. 261,759.57
Cr.	Tls.
By return and re-insurance premia, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	29,948.09
By sundry charges and income tax	2,193.60
By losses and claims paid	229,617.88
	Tls. 261,759.57

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1895.	
Dr.	Tls.
To net premia, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	1,035,502.66
To interest	56,072.95
To transfer and certificate fees	102.00
To profit on London investments realised	12,384.17
To investment fluctuation account transferred	10,756.15
	Tls. 1,114,817.93

Cr.	Tls.
By agency commissions 1st January to 31st December, 1895	13,405.77
By agency charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	11,914.07
By general charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	2,518.33
By head office charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	34,245.16

By London charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	73,280.99
By Hongkong charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	12,738.43
By Yokohama charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1895	7,700.58
By directors' and auditors' fees	6,400.00
By income tax	126.89
By losses and claims paid	467,317.69
By depreciation furniture account	407.52
By repairs to head office premises	1,366.50
By exchange account	18,383.17
By balance carried forward	460,203.10
	Tls. 1,114,817.93

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

On the afternoon of the 15th April H.E. the Governor and H.E. Major-General Black held the annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on the Parade Ground. Colonel O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Captain Sterling, A.D.C. to the Governor, and Captain Loveband, the General's A.D.C., were also in attendance. Both the Field Battery and Maxim Gun Corps were under the command of Major Pemberton, the Field Battery being in charge of Captain McCallum and the Maxim in charge of Captain Adamson. The other officers present were Surgeon Lieutenant Stedman, Lieutenants Machell and Chapman (Field Battery), Surgeon Lieutenant Lowson and Lieutenant Osborne (Maxims). Altogether fifty-three officers and men of the Field Battery, twenty-two of the Maxim Gun Company, and fourteen Signallers assembled on the ground. They were put through a course of field manoeuvring which occupied nearly an hour and then they returned to head quarters, where the prizes were distributed. In addressing the officers and men

Major General Black said—Major Pemberton, Captain McCallum, Captain Adamson, officers and men of the Hongkong Volunteer Artillery, in the old days when Volunteers were inspected there was a good deal of butter laid on. It was the fashion of the day for the Volunteers to be coaxed and patted on the back, but now it is no longer the custom for fish to be eaten with sauce and it would be a sort of insult to men to bespatter them with praise and pay them elaborate compliments. But still, there is nothing like telling you the truth when you have done well, and it is just as well to tell you you have done badly if you do not deserve praise. Since I came here I have seen you work on two days on the hill; one of the days was when you had to fire at targets at Sandy Bay, and there is no doubt that the work was very well done. The guns were brought into positions of very considerable difficulty over very rocky ground and the work was very well done and the firing was also very good, especially the firing of the seven pounders. The firing of the Maxims, however, was not so very good, but I do not know whether it would have been particularly pleasant to have stood near the targets fired at. Of course you had to heave some very heavy things and I heard one or two of the men say that it was hard work. Of course it was very hard work and it was a pity the men had to haul the guns into the positions themselves. It would have been better if they had brought coolies for that work, as the men would then have been fresh. Far better have coolies, although of course you would have to work the guns yourselves in time of need and in that case you would not want untrained men with you. The ground you had drill on to-day is very uneven and the seven pounders did not lend themselves to lining up. I just forget the exact phrase, but the ground was very difficult to get over. The manoeuvring was very well done and you certainly got your guns in very good position, and that is a long way towards winning a fight. You did very well, but there are so few of you. You are a good looking lot of men, but you are so few. I have written to the Governor suggesting certain things and I have been talking to men who had been in the Corps as well as to men who are in now and I have gathered from them that if ever they were wanted they would come back again. That shows a very good spirit indeed, but I hope none of you will leave when you become

efficient. I hope you will all hold on. It would be a very good thing to establish scouts. I should have five native scouts who could carry messages quickly from the low levels to the hills where the commanders of the different sections were; no doubt these scouts would prove very useful if they were wanted. You did your work very well indeed—quite as well as I could have anticipated. Now, Captain McCallum, if you ask me to distribute the prizes I shall be very happy to do so.

Major-General Black then handed to Sergeant Lowrie the Challenge Cup won by the 5th detachment in the 64 pounder competition, 1896, and also a battery cup for himself. In giving Sergeant Lowrie this last cup the General said—This is a very fine cup indeed. It will be handed down to your family and I am sure they will be proud of it in years to come. Why, you won't be able to carry them both. Sergeant Lowrie replied that he would get someone to help him.

Major-General Black added—Be sure you "handse" the cup.

The gun stars were then presented to the remainder of the battalion—Gunners Deas, Curran, White, Gilchrist, Hand, Moller, and Stewart.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE RIFLE BRIGADE SPORTS.

The annual athletic meeting promoted by the Rifle Brigade was held at the Happy Valley on Monday (13th April) in capital weather and before a very large assembly, including His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson. The Brigade contains many exceptionally good athletes and consequently the sport provided was particularly interesting and enjoyable. The Brigade band was in attendance during the afternoon and played many excellent selections and it should also be mentioned that admirable arrangements had been made by the officers of the Brigade for the supply of refreshments to the invited guests. The following were the officials:—

PRESIDENT AND REFEREE.—Lieut.-Col. C. H. B. Norcott.

COMMITTEE.—Capt. W. V. Eccles, Capt. A. G. Ferguson, Lieut. R. Alexander, Lieut. C. W. C. Knox, Lieut. G. Paley, Lieut. L. Hoey (Hon. Sec.)

SUB-COMMITTEE.—Sergt.-Major W. Morrish, Quarter-Master Sergeant W. Hoggatt, Colour-Sergeant J. Finney, Colour-Sergeant H. Lacey.

CRICKET BALL.

Acting Corporal Sherman, 96 yards	1
Private Claridge, 90 yards	2
Private Perrow, 89 yards	3

HIGH JUMP.

Private Cronin, 4 ft. 11½ in.	1
Private Emery, 4 ft. 11 in.	2
Private Pain, 4 ft. 9 in.	3

VETERANS' RACE.

Sergeant Tyre	1
Sergeant Jones	2
Private Higginson	3

100 YARDS RACE.

Acting Corporal Hall	1
Private Richardson	2
Private Cull	3

Time—10 secs.

SERGEANTS' RACE, 220 YARDS

Sergeant Jones	1
Sergeant Ryan	2

DRILL ORDER, 300 YARDS.

Private Thistlewood	1
Private Goreham	2
Private Watson	3

Time—42 secs.

HURDLE RACE, 120 YARDS

Private Brown	1
Private Hatchwell	2
Private Walters	3

Time—16 secs.

220 YARDS OPEN RACE

Acting Corporal Hall	+
Private Ryder	+
Private Green	3

Time—22 secs.

CHILDREN'S HANDICAP

R. Peachy	1
P. Morrish	2
R. Layfield	3
A. Cox	4
M. Peachy	5

220 YARDS INDIANS' RACE

Gundah	1
Gundah Singh	2
Ali Rika	3

QUARTER MILE RACE

Private Ryder	1
Private Dicks	2
Private Windmill	3

Time—54 secs.

HALF MILE RACE

Private Bannister	1
Corporal Brook	2
Private Eason	3

BAND BOYS' RACE, 100 YARDS

Kelley	1
Howard	2
Gilbert	3

ALARM POST CO. PRIZE

"C" Company	1
"D" Company	2

TUG OF WAR

"C" Company won easily

BAND RACE, 100 YARDS

Bandsman Green	1
Bandsman Vaughan	2
Bandsman Thomas	3

The Battalion Athletic Shield, presented by Lieut.-Col. the Hon. M. Curzon, was won by "C" Company (Captain W. V. Eccles) with a score of 36 points, made up of three first prizes (18 points), three second prizes (12 points), three third prizes (6 points). "A" Company was second with 24 points, "G" Company third with 12 points, "D" Company fourth with 10 points, "E" Company fifth with 10 points, and "I" Company sixth with 6 points. "B" and "F" tied for last with a total score of nil.

THE POLO TOURNAMENT.

On the afternoon of the 17th April the first match of the Polo tournament was played in excellent weather, perhaps a little too cold for the numerous audience that had assembled to witness this interesting event. The competing teams were:—

Mr. Whitehead... back	Capt. Loveband back
Mr. Salmond..... 3	Capt. Nugent ... 3
Mr. Holland..... 2	Mr. Gresson ... 2
Mr. Lewin..... 1	Mr. Cruickshank, B.A. 1

The game was started at 5.15 p.m. and the first quarter was full of interest, as Mr. Whitehead's team gallantly defended their goal against the various attempts that were made against it. Capt. Loveband's team failed to back him up and he was playing a defensive game. Just before the end of the quarter a good run was made down to the nullah goal and Mr. Gresson succeeded in directing the ball through between the right hand post and the subsidiary goal mark, making the first and only score for that quarter. The quarter lasted thirteen minutes, as the ball was kept in play for three minutes after time was up; being finally hit out behind the nullah goal defended by Mr. Whitehead's team. Starting the second quarter, Mr. Whitehead made a good hit out and the ball was brought to the centre, but very shortly afterwards Captain Loveband made a long hit through the goal. Ends were changed and the ball set in motion again in the centre. Capt. Loveband recognising that he now only had five minutes more to play took the onus of the whole play on his own shoulders, and his side keeping well out of the way and also keeping the course clear enabled him again to make a long hit, this time at the stable goal end. Ends were again changed and once more the ball was started from the centre, but nothing would hold Capt. Loveband, and playing perhaps the best game he has ever played he made another good attempt at the goal, but only succeeded in scoring a subsidiary. This made two goals and two subsidiaries to nil. However, when the ball was again started from the nullah end the gallant Captain was not satisfied with his victory, but playing a desperately hard game ran the ball right down the ground through his opposing team and landed it once more between the flags. Mr. Whitehead's team now pulled themselves together a bit and seemed very much like scoring, as Mr. Salmond got away, with the ground all to himself, but unfortunately could not stick quite long enough to the ball. Time was rung at 6.50 p.m. after a very interesting game, resulting in a well deserved victory for Capt. Loveband of

three goals and two subsidiaries to nil. There was not very much "crossing" or "foul riding," as was evidenced by the umpire only having to use his whistle once. This onerous duty was capably carried out by Mr. Alexander, who deserves the thanks of both teams for his trouble, as also do Mr. Digby and Mr. Cruickshank, who acted as goal referees, and Capt. Burney as timekeeper.

THE SECOND ROUND.

The second round of the Polo tournament came off on the afternoon of the 20th April in far more pleasant weather for the spectators than on Friday, as it was warmer, and there was again a large audience.

The competing teams were:—
Capt. Burney ... back Surg.-Maj. Edye | back
Lieut. Digby ... 3 Lieut. Power ... 3
Lieut. Grayson ... 2 Mr. J. Hastings ... 2
Capt. Bethune ... 1 Lieut. Taylor ... 1

The first quarter Surgeon-Captain Edye's team seemed to be the stronger and pushed their adversaries, who had won the toss and chosen to play with the wind, badly; and in a run down the ground seemed like scoring, but the ball was saved from going through and run down to the stable goal end, where Captain Bethune made the first score, hitting a subsidiary for his side. However, Edye's team, bringing it out again, ran it down the ground and Edye put it between the flags; this made one goal to a subsidiary. Ends being changed, the ball was again put in motion, but Burney's team did not seem to play together. He was completely off himself, his pony seeming to give him a good deal of trouble, and after playing backwards and forwards for a short time a "cross" was given against Digby, but luckily resulted in nothing, as the ball passed just to one side of the subsidiary mark. Bringing it out Burney's pony shied off the white mark of the subsidiary goal and he made a "fozzle" in hitting out; however, it was recovered, and the ball travelled down the ground, only to return in a short time, and Taylor getting possession on a very fast pony, Planet, managed to run it down to the goal line, Burney just saving it going over the line, and Grayson following too closely missed the ball and left the goal open for Hastings to put it through. The bell rang, leaving the game with Edye's team two goals, Burney's team one subsidiary. The second quarter Burney made an alteration in the position of his players, and from the moment the ball was started it was apparent that this was an improvement. Shortly after the ball was started it was run down to the stable goal and Bethune put it neatly through; the score then stood Edye's two goals, Burney's one goal and one subsidiary. Hitting out again the ball was collared in Edye's half and running it down the ground Digby got in a useful back hander and landed another subsidiary, making Edye's two goals, Burney's one goal and two subsidiaries. Grayson and Bethune now played in first class form and taking the ball down the ground left it very close to one side and Burney landed another subsidiary; this was, Edye's two goals, Burney's one goal and three subsidiaries. The ball was hit out and played down the ground, but soon brought back, and Burney centring the ball with a back hander Grayson put it between the flags; game, Burney's two goals and three subsidiaries, Edye's two goals. The play from this point was very fast and Grayson and Bethune keeping up a very good combination kept the ball well away from their end and enabled one more goal and one subsidiary to be scored, while Edye's team scored one more goal and one subsidiary. A "cross" was given against Edye and should have resulted in another goal to Burney's team, but he was clean off the ball and failed to centre it. The result was a victory for Burney's team of three goals and four subsidiaries to Edye's three goals and one subsidiary. The final comes off on Friday next, 24th inst., between Loveband's team and Burney's, when a good match should result.

ON LOOKER.

Mr. Jerome Dyer has left Siam on his return to Australia. It is said that negotiations for the sale of the two gunboats he tried to dispose of to the Siamese Government are now going on with China.

"CROSSING" AT POLO.

The Indian Polo Association having recognised the many fatal accidents which had occurred from this dangerous practice were determined to do their utmost to exclude it from the game and instituted such a penalty as in their opinion would effectively cause any player given to "crossing," however good a hit or rider he may be, being excluded from any good team. On China ponies accidents do not happily very often occur, as the ponies themselves refuse to collide; but at a time, like the present, when the game is getting faster every day, we may look for altered circumstances and the necessity may arise as much here in Hongkong as it did in India. It can do no harm, therefore, if the matter of "crossing" be brought vividly to the mind of Hongkong polo players. From my observation of the polo here I must admit that few, if any, of the players really understand what constitutes a "cross." The word in itself is rather misleading, as the literal sense of the word by no means carries its meaning. For instance, one player may with impunity cross the line of direction of another player, even though this latter has last hit the ball, provided, in the opinion of the Umpire, a collision was not possible either by the distance apart of the players or the pace the players are respectively galloping at. Another point which is not generally understood, and that is, that a player in possession of the ball (that is, he who last hit it) cannot "cross" another player, although he changes his direction, as rule 26 then applies, which says that "when two players are coming at the ball from different directions the player not in possession of the ball must give way to the one in possession of the ball." Thus if a player bringing the ball down the ground hits it, and by "heeling" the ball or otherwise materially alters the direction of the ball, he is still in possession of the ball, and if a collision appears imminent any other player must give way to him. Again, when a player is bringing the ball out from behind goal any player getting in his way in such a manner as to cause a collision is probable, then that player causes a "foul" by contravening rule 26 and the penalty for an ordinary "foul" should be given. This often occurs by players "standing over" the ball when it is being brought out, a practice quite as dangerous as "crossing." To constitute a "cross" a player must cross another who is in possession of the ball at such a distance as would cause a collision, unless the player pulled up or otherwise altered his own direction; and with this Rule must be read the explanation of "in possession," which is, "the player who has last hit the ball or comes from the direction in which it was last hit." The two words in italics are very important and are those generally misunderstood by beginners. If your polo playing readers carefully consider these rules I have no doubt they will readily recognise that there are two "fouls" that can be made in connection with riding, the one being termed "crossing" and the other contravening rule 26 by not "giving way" to a player in possession of the ball.

ON LOOKER.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 10th April says:—The dinner given by the Oriental Association to Earl Spencer was a great success. About 1,500 guests were present, including the British Minister. During the progress of the dinner Marquis Hachisuka, the president of the Upper House, rose and cried in English, "God bless the Queen!" Mr. Satow, the British Minister, immediately followed by saying in a loud voice in Japanese, "Nippon Kotei Heika banzai!" Count Soyejima, Vice-Admiral Baron Ito, Mr. Shibusawa, and Mr. Kuse, the Governor of Tokyo-fu, made speeches of welcome, to which Earl Spencer appropriately replied. He returned thanks for the very cordial welcome afforded him, congratulated those present on the great advance which Japan had made during the last quarter of a century, and expressed a hope that the friendship between Japan and England would go on increasing. The Minister for Finance replied, and the proceedings came to an end about 10 p.m.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

This meeting, which concluded on the 20th April is held once a quarter and consists of competitions for the MacEwen Cup, a Sweep, a Pool, and a Bogie competition. There have been a large number of entries for these events, but owing probably to the rapid growth of the grass the scores are somewhat high. There are, however, one or two exceptions, as will be seen from the scores given below:—

THE MACEWEN CUP.

Mr. G. Stewart	91	5	86
Capt. W. V. Eccles	90	2	88
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	97	9	88
Mr. W. A. Duff	101	12	89
Commodore Boyes	104	14	90
Captain Rumsey	99	8	91
Mr. J. Hastings	104	12	92
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	108	15	93
Mr. C. A. Tomes	109	15	94
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	112	18	94
Mr. C. W. Spriggs	113	18	95
Mr. C. H. Grace	109	12	97
Mr. H. P. Tooker	118	20	98

SWEEP.

Capt. W. V. Eccles	85	2	83
Mr. G. Stewart	91	5	86
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	97	9	88
Mr. W. A. Duff	101	12	89
Mr. H. W. Robertson	109	18	91
Mr. J. Hastings	104	12	92
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	108	15	93
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	112	18	94
Mr. C. A. Tomes	109	15	94
Mr. C. H. Grace	109	12	97

POOL.

Mr. G. Stewart	89	5	84
Capt. W. V. Eccles	89	2	87
Mr. W. A. Duff	101	12	89
Commodore Boyes	104	14	90
Mr. H. W. Robertson	109	18	91
Mr. J. Hastings	104	12	92
Mr. C. A. Tomes	107	15	92
Dr. Atkinson	108	15	93
Mr. E. A. Ram	104	11	93
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	102	18	94
Mr. C. H. Grace	109	12	97
Mr. E. Ormiston	119	21	98

BOGIE.

Capt. W. V. Eccles (receiving 2 strokes)	4	down
Mr. G. Stewart	4	down
Mr. H. W. Slade	14	down
Mr. E. A. Ram	8	down
Mr. E. Ormiston	16	down
Commodore Boyes	11	down
Mr. H. W. Robertson	14	down
Mr. C. A. Tomes	11	down
Mr. C. W. Spriggs	14	down

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

ELEVENTH CLUB RACE.—APRIL 12TH.

The course for this race was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Kowloon Rock, Channel Rocks, and dinghy off Pier, twice round; 13 miles. The following boats started at 11.15 with a fairly strong south wind:—

Petrel	Mr. Morton Jones
Payne	Royal Engineers
Ladybird	Mr. J. Hastings
Erica	Mr. A. Denison
Meteor	Mr. T. W. Lammert
Princess	Dr. Lowson

Arrow, Lieut. Carey, sailed over in the Handicap class.

There was some difficulty with the gun at the start and all the boats except Princess were some distance away from the line when the second gun was fired, but with the above exception the fleet got off well together.

Princess led the way to the Kowloon Rock, which she rounded first, but Meteor and Erica were only about three lengths behind her, with Ladybird and Payne close up. Petrel had already found the pace too hot and had given up. In the beat up to Channel Rocks Erica went into first place and rounded about half a minute in front of Meteor, with Princess about two minutes after, Payne and Ladybird following after three or four minutes. A reach brought the boats down to near Blackhead's Point, where Meteor went into first place and Payne into second. The wind was here very variable, and Ladybird was second round the markboat off the pier, with Erica a close third.

Payne came next, but in gybing round ran foul of the mark and retired. Princess was here last boat. A run brought the boats again to Kowloon Rock, where Meteor had a long lead, Ladybird and the other being in the same positions. In the reach up to Channel Rocks Erica passed Ladybird and went into second place, which she kept to the finish.

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	2	42	0
Erica	2	47	0
Ladybird	2	56	0
Princess	2	58	0
Arrow finished at	3	7	0

In the last race Meteor was disqualified for being over the limit of rating allowed by the club rules.

The points gained by the boats are now as follows:—

1ST CLASS.

Erica	58 points.
Meteor	46 "
Princess	41 "
Dart	14 "
Ladybird	3 "
Payne	3 "

2ND CLASS.

She	60 points.
Seabreeze	10 "

HANDICAP CLASS.

Arrow	50 "
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HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twelve members competed for the Short Range Cup and Spoons, which were shot for on Saturday afternoon in fairly favourable weather over the 200 and 600 yards distances. Major Wrottesley, R.E., won the Cup for the first time with a very creditable score of 63, the Spoons going to Petty Officer Bishop, R.N., Captain Eccles, R.B., and Major Wrottesley, R.E. The shooting, though somewhat disappointing as regards some of the competitors at the longer distance, was on the whole good, considering the difficulties of the 600 yards range. The following were the best results:—

	200	600	Handicap	Ttl.
Petty Officer Bishop, R.N.	31	30	6	67
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	33	31	—	64
Major Wrottesley, R.E.	31	32	—	63
Captain Palmer, O.S.D.	31	25	5	61
Sergt.-Mjr. Morrish, R.B.	29	28	3	60
Cpt. Patton Bethune, R.B.	31	23	6	60

Petty Officer Bishop's score was made with the Martini-Henry rifle, the remainder with the Lee-Metford.

EASTER MEETING RESULTS.

Ladies Competition, No. 22. Winners:—

Mrs. Hoey	25
Mrs. Welman	25
Mrs. Vallings	20
Mrs. Eccles	20
Mrs. Dalrymple	19
Miss Boyes	19
Miss Dick Melbourne	19
Mrs. Kirch	16
Mrs. Retallick	16
Mrs. Hawkins	16

Prizes for the above and the Ladies' Nomination Competition, No. 4, were very kindly presented by:—The *China Mail*, silver pin box; the *China Mail*, silver card case; Mr. Victor H. Deacon, silver box; Messrs. Kuhn & Co., prize to be selected; Messrs. Lock Hing, pair vases; Mr. J. H. Lewis, pair silver mounted champagne glasses; Mr. G. K. Moore, silver photo frame; Mr. A. M. Marshall, silver pepper castors; Mr. G. W. F. Playfair, silver pepper castors; Capt. Palmer, O.S.D., prize value \$20 to be purchased by winner; Dr. Noble, pair silver bowls; Major the Hon. E. Noel, R.B., silver cigarette case; Mr. E. D. Sanders, ivory carved card case; Mr. Wang Hing, pair silver buckles; Mr. A. Woolley, silver box; Mr. A. Woolley, silver mustard pot; Major Wrottesley, R.E., silver junk; Mr. F. Smyth, silver toast rack.

Competition No. 21.—The N. R. A. silver medal for the highest aggregate with the M.-H. rifle in the Queen's Competitions is won by Mr. E. Robinson with a score of 200.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

RIFLE BRIGADE v. H.M.S. "CENTURION."

The above match was fired at Kowloon on Saturday, 18th April, and resulted in a victory for the soldiers by four points. A return match is to be fired on Thursday next, when it is hoped that the contest may prove even more exciting and interesting. This was the first occasion on which some of the Naval officers had fired with a Lee-Metford rifle, and so probably in the return match they will be very difficult to beat. Scores:—

RIFLE BRIGADE.

	200	500	600	Ttl.
Capt. Ferguson	28	33	26	87
Capt. Bethune	27	33	25	85
2nd Lieut. Power	31	29	24	84
Qr.-Mr. Hoey	27	30	23	80
Major Pemberton	30	29	19	78
Capt. Eccles	29	27	21	77
Lieut. Percival	28	27	17	72
Capt. Stewart	27	16	12	55

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H.M.S. "CENTURION."

Lt. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	32	26	29	87
Lieut. O'Farrell	31	30	26	87
Lt. Homfrey, R.M.R.	30	25	26	81
Lieut. Powlett	30	31	19	80
Surg. Jeans	29	28	22	79
Lieut. James	23	25	22	70
Sub-Lieut. Kennedy	27	28	14	69
P. F. C. Backhouse	25	15	21	61

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CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—“Much ado about nothing” is fairly illustrated by the letters of your two correspondents re The Odd Volumes. Hongkong has not the honour of inventing that name. The title was given to a much older society, than Hongkong can boast of and is venerated by the literary and art circles. It ought to be unnecessary to remind your correspondents of the many clubs bearing quaint names where literary men of the past met each other. Those old names are now dear to all classes of readers and let us hope our local society will prove itself worthy of the name appropriated.

The ungracious remarks about advertising are to be regretted. If they are pointed at any one at present in the colony they can reply, giving very good and solid reasons against that supposition.

Both the letters are too absurd to be treated in a more critical manner, but the writers will have to pardon many a smile from the members of our Odd Vols, including a rather pronounced one from yours truly

OLD PEN WIPER.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1896.

A MUNICIPALITY FOR HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In the interesting and able note of Hon. T. H. Whitehead regarding the right of the people in Hongkong, or rather, I take it, in Victoria city, to manage their own municipal affairs, no reference is made to what has been done in India on this very important subject. Now, in the territories under the Government of India all problems relating to the art of properly governing Orientals, and also mixed communities of Europeans and Orientals, have been and are being worked out on a scale infinitely greater than can be the case elsewhere in the East. The experience therefore gained in India on the question of Municipalities (and, I may also add, in regard to education and other subjects) should be of use to those who are interested in these matters here. There must now be several hundreds of Municipalities in India and Burma of all sizes, from the great Presidency towns down to small places of two or three thousand inhabitants. In these latter, where the population is entirely native

and the efficient administration of the Municipal Act depends mostly on a single European officer, who has plenty of other work to do besides, the difficulties are naturally much greater than in the larger towns where there is a European community and not a few intelligent and educated native gentlemen. In these latter places, several of whose circumstances closely resemble Hongkong, there has, speaking generally, never been any difficulty in obtaining adequate representation on the Municipal Councils of energetic and public spirited members of the European non-official community. Merchants in India are every whit as hard worked as those out here, yet they manage to sit on these councils, and to give invaluable assistance on municipal affairs. It is true that you will not always get absolutely the leading men in the mercantile community, but experience shows that is not an unmixed evil, as occasionally the men in the very first rank have after a long residence in the East grown somewhat lethargic, or rather, might I say, conservative. What is wanted are men fairly representative of the mercantile community with plenty of energy and "go," and hitherto, as already said, there has been little difficulty in obtaining such in India. To an Anglo-Indian, therefore, the assertion of Sir G. Bonham that efficient representation of the mercantile community could not be found in Hongkong to sit on a Municipal Council would if repeated now be little less than a gratuitous and unfounded insult to that body of people.

Had Hongkong been administered by the Government of India there cannot be the slightest doubt that Victoria town would have been made into a Municipality many years ago, the present system of administration being at least twenty years behind the times. One of the first steps taken after the annexation of Upper Burma was to create Mandalay a Municipality, and that this step has proved successful no one who is acquainted with its administration since will deny. Surely Hongkong is more worthy of a Municipal Government than Mandalay.

I would suggest that those here who are interested in the reform of the present system should apply to the Government of India for copies of the Acts relating to the Municipalities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Rangoon, and also for the loan of the official reports of the debates on them in the various Legislative Councils, which latter are frequently very instructive. The presidents of these Municipalities would also doubtless be glad to give information on the practical working of these Acts. A committee might then be formed and a persistent agitation kept up until Municipal Government is conceded.

If Hongkong were run on Indian lines it would have a Municipality consisting perhaps of about fifteen members, of whom the president and two others might be officials, whilst of the remainder six might be elected by the European and six by the Chinese community. There are, I am aware, some who would refuse representation to the native community, pointing out that as a whole they are opposed to necessary measures of sanitation. The subject is an important and complex one, and can scarcely be entered on here, but I would point out that great weight should be given to the policy deliberately adopted on the subject by the Government of India and that with nine Europeans as against six natives there would be no fear of the latter imposing on the Municipality their views on sanitary matters. Further, there are various checks and safeguards relating to the subject which will be found in the Acts to which I have alluded and might be advantageously introduced into a Hongkong Municipal Ordinance.

It is difficult for an outsider to understand the reasons of the local Government in refusing the production of the correspondence with the Secretary of State in regard to the remodelling of the Sanitary Board, but doubtless, as suggested by you, there should be no difficulty in obtaining its production through Parliament. The action of the local authorities is directly contrary to the policy of the Government of India, which is always to encourage and foster Municipal aspirations and not to repress them.

PROGRESS.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1895.

AN INTERESTING POINT IN CRICKET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Some of your readers may remember a rather curious incident that occurred in a match on the Hongkong cricket ground during the past season. Captain Grafton, R.N., playing for the Plains v. The Peak, played a ball, and as it appeared likely to fall on to his wickets he struck it—as he had a perfect right to do—a second time; and smacked it up into the hands of the wicketkeeper. An appeal was made to the umpire, who gave the batsman out—caught at the wicket. A considerable amount of amicable discussion ensued in the pavilion as to whether this decision was a proper one; the ayes and noes being pretty evenly divided. The question being one of some interest it has been referred home to the more or less authoritative ruling of the *field*; and I shall feel much obliged if you will give publicity to the opinion therein expressed and which is as follows:—

"The decision given was incorrect. The ball may be hit a second time for the sole purpose of guarding the wicket. If after striking the ball a second time the batsman should attempt to run, he is, according to the general interpretation of Law 27, at once out, no matter what becomes of the ball. It follows that as, in such a case as you describe, the law forbids the batsman running, it also shelters him from being caught."

Thanking you in anticipation for your courtesy in inserting this letter.—I am, yours obediently,

EDWARD A. RAM,
Hon. Sec. H.K.C.C.

Hongkong Cricket Club, 20th April, 1896.

ALTRUISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The spectacle of the German firms appealing against the military contribution through their representative, the member for the Chamber of Commerce, is amusing enough, even to a soul saturated with Gilbertianism, but what are we to say to the suggestion of the *Mercury*, mentioned in your yesterday's issue, that the help of the British Minister should be invoked for a German firm to conduct their business on Chinese territory? At the same time we may read that the German Government are combining with the enemy to oust us from Egypt! Altruism is

HUMBUG.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1896.

LI HUNG-CHANG AT SAIGON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Saigon, 6th April.

The passage of His Excellency Li Hung-chang through Saigon by the Messageries Maritimes fine mail steamer *Ernest Simons* was the occasion of a most gorgeous reception and brilliant festivities, which will be long remembered by residents.

The *Ernest Simons* arrived in front of the pier at half-past eight on Saturday morning, flying the dragon flag at the main peak. The Messageries Maritimes landing stage was gay with bunting, a fine display of French flags and palm leaves was made at the signal mast, and two enormous and beautifully worked yellow Chinese flags marked the spot where His Excellency was to put foot on French territory. The *Ernest Simons* was obliged, owing to the tide, to go further up the river to the so-called point A, to be able to turn, and half-an-hour later the majestic vessel approached the Messageries landing pier.

Saigon had been in full animation since the early morning. Flagstuffs with tricolour flags had been placed along the quays and the Rue Catinat up to the Palace of the Governor; the troops lined the streets from the signal mast, and the military band was placed directly opposite the point where Li Hung-chang was to land.

The Governor's landau soon made its appearance, drawn by four horses and preceded and followed by a large body of cavalry to serve as a guard of honour. A number of other private carriages from the Government stables

also drew up for the suite of the grand old man. At the flagstaff were waiting M. Lafont, on behalf of the Governor, M. Berenguier, Deputy Mayor, and the Colonel, on behalf of the military authorities, in full dress.

The moment the *Ernest Simons* cast anchor, the pretty and graceful state barge towed by a steam launch from the arsenal, which had been lying in waiting, came alongside the mail steamer and the animation and curiosity of the enormous crowd of Europeans and Chinese who had assembled at the pier was raised to the highest pitch. His Excellency Li Hung-chang had accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Governor to spend the day at Saigon; we have no epidemic disease here nor any bad feeling, and the prevailing enthusiasm was a clear expression of the friendly relations of the two great nations.

As soon as the state barge, bearing the Chinese flag, into which Li Hung-chang and about twelve mandarins had stepped, was clear of the *Ernest Simons* (which had at the same time lowered the Chinese ensign from the main), the heavy guns of the ironclad *Styx* boomed forth and saluted His Excellency with 21 rounds.

Li Hung-chang, who was easily recognisable by the yellow silk jacket and peacock feather, was in high spirits and saluted in a most cordial manner the aforesaid gentlemen, who accompanied him to the carriage, and at this moment the band played the Marseillaise. From the assembled Chinese broke forth a cheer for the grand old man, who greeted and saluted everywhere. The biggest Chinese merchants were present and no ill-feeling of any kind prevailed. In the Government landau were seated Li Hung-chang, M. Lafont, M. Berenguier, and another mandarin, and the suite of about twelve mandarins were accommodated in other Government carriages.

The two cavalry detachments ranged themselves in front and behind the carriage and the cortège proceeded along the quay and the Rue Catinat to Government House, where M. Sandret, the Acting Governor, awaited His Excellency, the troops presenting arms.

Subsequently a grand dinner was given, with all the high functionaries present, and in the evening a brilliant gala representation took place at the theatre, which was splendidly illuminated and where the "Grand Mogul" was played. When Li Hung-chang appeared in the Governor's box the orchestra played the Chinese National Anthem and the Marseillaise, which were listened to standing by a crowded house.

As we have no plague nor any other epidemic diseases at Saigon Li Hung-chang slept at Government House and the next morning (Sunday) at eight o'clock the same cortège in the same gorgeous manner proceeded to the mail steamer preceded and followed by the cavalry in right royal style, M. Sandret, the Acting Governor, accompanying his illustrious guest and remaining with him in the state cabin of the *Ernest Simons* up to the very last moment. Li Hung-chang must have been delighted with his friendly reception on French territory.

At the dinner at Government House Li Hung-chang made a short speech. We translate it from the report in the *Courrier de Saigon*:—
Ladies and gentlemen, I drink to your health, to the prosperity of the French Government, and I rejoice at the important event which supplies the motive of our passage through this country. We are going, as you know, to the coronation of the Emperor of Russia, H.M. the Czar Alexander. The Emperor of China, our master, has confided to us this important mission. We are going direct to Alexandria, whence a special ship will take us to Odessa, and thence we proceed to Moscow by the most rapid means. After the coronation of the Czar we will visit Europe; passing through Berlin we will go to Paris, to present to the respective Governments of these two countries the letters of thanks of which we are the bearers expressing to France and Germany the satisfaction of the Tsungli Yamen and of our Emperor at the part taken by these two powers in the restitution to China of the province of Liaotung by the Japanese. We thank you, M. le Gouverneur and gentlemen, for the cordial reception which

has been accorded to us by the population of Cochin-China, and for the kindness of your Government. We will send a telegram to the Tsungli Yamen to acquaint it with all the details of our visit to Cochin-China and requesting the Yamen to thank the President of the French Republic in our name.

LI HUNG-CHAN AT SINGAPORE.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S EXPLANATION OF WHY HE DID NOT LAND AT HONGKONG.

Singapore, 8th April.

Yesterday afternoon, at one o'clock, His Excellency Li Hung-chang received, at Government House, between forty and fifty of the principal Chinese residents of Singapore. The arrangements were entrusted by the Governor to the Chinese Consul-General, and anyone desirous of being presented had to leave his name at the Consulate. There was no limitation either of rank or position. The Chinese Advisory Board and the Society for the Protection of Women and Girls were very fully represented, and nearly all the principal merchants were in attendance. Among those present were: the Hon. Dr. Lim Boon Keng, Mr. Lim Sam, Mr. Lee Ching Yuen, Mr. Seah Leang Seah, Mr. Tan Jiak Kim, and Mr. Wee Kim Yiu. The presentations were made in sections, according to the provinces of China, to which those present belonged: Tew Chew, Fokien, and Canton were the provinces mainly represented. The kow-tow, on the suggestion of the Governor, was dispensed with. Li Hung-chang, according to custom, would have had to return the complete prostrations offered him, and this, it was considered, would have been too fatiguing to a man of his years. Consequently, a low bow with bended knee was substituted. The ceremony lasted nearly an hour, and, for a short time afterwards, Li Hung-chang rested and conversed with the Governor.

At three o'clock, His Excellency drove, in one of the Governor's carriages, to the Chinese Consulate where he was received with great ceremony, the Consulate having been decorated for the occasion. The Consul conducted His Excellency to his room on the first floor, where he rested for a time. The distinguished visitor seemed to feel the heat considerably, and, to cool himself, threw off some of his ceremonial costume. At four o'clock he reappeared and was entertained at a grand banquet, at which the members of the Embassy, and the staff of the Consulate, were present. His Excellency, however, is most particular as to his diet, and only partook of a few plain dishes. At half-past four the Colonial Secretary, on behalf of the Governor, returned His Excellency's call, and at five o'clock the Governor sent down a carriage, and Li Hung-chang went for a drive around Singapore, calling at Mr. Seah Leang Seah's charming gardens on the Serangoon Road, where he was hospitably entertained. Throughout his drive His Excellency was followed, in another carriage, by Captain Herbert, A.D.C., and by Mr. Police Superintendent Bell. From the Gardens Li Hung-chang drove direct to the Borneo Wharf, which he reached at half-past six, the steamer leaving at half-past eight. The Chinese Consul and the whole of his staff were present to bid His Excellency farewell. The Chinese Consul-General is Mr. Thio Tian Siat, and the Assistant Consul-General is Mr. Lew Yuk Lin.

H.E. GRATIFIED WITH HIS RECEPTION.

The Chinese Consul, in conversation this morning at the *Straits Times* Office, said Li Hung-chang expressed himself as greatly pleased with his reception, although he had felt somewhat fatigued. H.E. said he thought the Governor was extremely kind to him.

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS.

Very complete measures for the protection of Li Hung-chang were taken yesterday by Mr. Bell, Superintendent of Police. A special force of constables was detailed for duty along the routes traversed by His Excellency. A large number was stationed at the entrance to Government House, and throughout the day around the Chinese Consulate. Chief Inspector Jennings was in attendance during His Excellency's drive from Government House to the Consulate, and Mr. Bell himself followed

him throughout his drive in the afternoon. The well-known fact that many Chinese residents were very bitter against Li Hung-chang owing to the disastrous war with Japan caused the Police to be more anxious for His Excellency's safety than they would otherwise have been. His determination to drive straight from Mr. Seah Leang Seah's garden to the vessel was somewhat of a surprise, as it was understood he would not leave till considerably later. His decision was attributed to fatigue.

LI HUNG-CHANG WILL MEET LORD SALISBURY.

We are authoritatively informed that, on the conclusion of the coronation festivities in Moscow, Li Hung-chang will go to London, where he is entrusted with a special political mission to the Marquis of Salisbury. Questions of great importance to British trade and political supremacy in the Far East will be discussed by the two statesmen. While in England His Excellency will be received and entertained by Her Majesty the Queen. Li Hung-chang had previously arranged to return to China by way of America, but he has now decided, after experience of the fatigue that would be entailed by so long a journey, to return *via* Suez Canal.

WHY H.E. DID NOT LAND AT HONGKONG.

Li Hung-chang officially stated, at the Chinese Consulate yesterday, his reasons for not landing at Hongkong. He remained on board the steamer in deference to the advice of his medical adviser, who feared the plague in the island. Dr. Irwin said there would be no risk in His Excellency himself going ashore; but if he went his servants would also land, and the infection might be brought aboard. While he remained on the vessel none of his servants would dare to land. Li Hung-chang was also very anxious to proceed. He feared a nine days' quarantine at Singapore, and was afraid that he might arrive in Russia too late for the coronation, which is fixed for the 14th of May. Should the *Ernest Simons* be at all delayed, the Russian Government has arranged to send a warship to Alexandria so that Li Hung-chang may go to Moscow by way of the Black Sea.—*Straits Times*.

A CHINESE IMPERIAL POST OFFICE.

A few days ago we mentioned that the Peking Government, owing to financial stringency, was obliged to sanction, amongst other things, the establishment of a rational and uniform postal system throughout the empire, under the control of foreigners, like the I. M. Customs. Indeed, as a matter of fact, some three years ago such a scheme was actually sanctioned by the Throne and Sir Robert Hart was entrusted to draw up a plan for superseding the existing disconnected and irresponsible private system, which is, however, surprisingly well conducted and admirably and safely managed, except that the rates charged for the carriage of letters strikes foreigners as exorbitantly high, and must of necessity greatly restrict communication between the various portions of the empire. At that time it was believed the new scheme would be inaugurated without delay, and the stamps were actually designed and details arranged, but somehow it fell through—really because of the opposition from high quarters interested in the maintenance of the present archaic and expensive system. Now it is said a Decree has been issued authorising the I. G. to organize the postal service at once, in the hope that he will earn a revenue out of it for the Peking Government.—*China Gazette*.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—Original shareholders of the Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Company, Limited, have been extremely fortunate. At the beginning of the current year the shares were quoted at Tls. 245. On the 6th of March they had gone up to Tls. 310, and on Saturday (11th April) the closing quotation was Tls. 345. This rise in the price of shares, that were issued at Tls. 100, is owing to the discovery of oil on the estate, and in connection with which two large tanks are to be built at Pootung, just below Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s premises, and we have no doubt that the Langkat oil will find a ready and profitable market throughout China.

THE NEW CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE.

It appears, according to some accounts, that this country will have to thank H.E. Chang Chih-tung for the establishment of a regular Government postal service. H.E. recently sent a despatch to the Tsungli Yamen, enclosing statistics of the postal services of Great Britain and the United States and suggesting that the Yamen should memorialise the Throne on the matter. As an incentive H.E. stated that "the United States had received in revenue, through its post, an average of \$64,209,490 per annum for the last eighteen years, while in Great Britain the Government received on an average from thirty to forty million dollars." As we know, the Tsungli Yamen memorialised in favour of the innovation, which has received the sanction of the Throne, Sir Robert Hart having been appointed Postmaster-General. The latter has presented a report to the Throne as to what should be observed in this new service, the report being embodied in some forty-four articles. This received the Imperial sanction on the 20th of March last. The Tsungli Yamen has therefore since then sent a circular despatch to the various Viceroys, Governors, and Tartar Generals of the Empire informing them that H.I.M. the Emperor had sanctioned on the 20th of March a scheme for the enlargement of the present Customs postal service on Western lines and that this service was intended to be extended throughout the whole Empire. Further, that China would join the Postal Union and that there was every evidence that a large revenue would accrue from this new step, &c. We hear that the Government will give every opportunity to the members of the various private postal and courier offices of the country to join the Government staff, and thus one great cause of discontent amongst a large class of people in the country will be removed.

The real author of the new Chinese postal scheme is Mr. F. Corsten, civil engineer, of Nanking and Shanghai. He suggested the scheme to H.E. Chang Chih-tung in August last, and was instructed by the Viceroy to draw up regulations for a service for the three provinces under H.E. Chang's jurisdiction. The scheme has since been extended to the whole Empire, and Sir Robert Hart, Bart., has been put at the head of it by the Emperor.—*N. C. Daily News*.

HONGKONG.

After a long spell of close humid weather the sun has made its appearance and during the past two days it has been very powerful. The plague continues and yesterday there were seven cases, the total for the year now being 554. On the 15th inst. Major-General Black made the annual inspection of the Volunteers and complimented them upon their work. On Friday Hon. H. E. Pollock delivered an interesting lecture at the Odd Volumes Society's room on the younger Pitt. On Saturday Mr. R. Cooke was the recipient of a handsome presentation on his departure for England on leave. On Monday the annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial Hospital was held and a satisfactory report was presented.

There were 2,137 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 180 were Europeans.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. Felipe S. Mesa has been recognised as in charge of the Consulate-General of Peru.

There were twelve cases of plague on the 15th April, nine on the 16th, ten on the 17th, four on the 18th, nine on the 19th, seven on the 20th, and eleven on the 21st.

At the recent Easter Rifle meeting H. E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., presented two \$10 notes on the range as prizes in the Ladies' Nomination Competition No. 4.

Shortly after nine o'clock on the 14th April four armed men entered a second-hand clothes shop at 90, Queen's Road East and took four foks into a back compartment, tied them up, and bade them keep silence. The robbers, who were possessed of revolvers, then ransacked the shop and stole clothing and money of the value of \$100. The foks have told the police that they can identify the robbers.

On the 15th April the Police received information that on the previous Monday an armed gang of twenty men entered an opium shop at Kowloon City and stole \$600 worth of raw and prepared opium and made good their escape.

The Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral, left on the 15th April by the M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on six months' leave. During Mr. Cobbold's absence the Right Rev. Bishop Burdon will be responsible for the services at the Cathedral.

The maximum temperature last month was 77, on the 27th, and the minimum 45.9, on the 21st, the mean for the month being 59.3. There were only 59.3 hours of sunshine and on fifteen days the sun was not seen at all. The rainfall amounted to 1.445 inches.

Mr. A. R. Marty has received no additional news regarding the *Activ*. Two dock officials and six Chinese assistants left for the scene of the accident by the *Ask* on Sunday and they will make an examination of the *Activ* with a view to ascertaining whether she can be saved.

A dance was given at the Club Lusitano on the 14th April by the Portuguese community in honour of H.E. Sr. Horta e Costa, Governor of Macao, who passed through the colony on his way to Siam, to present his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary, proceeding afterwards on two months' leave. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Mr. A. G. Romano, Portuguese Consul-General, arrived at 9.30 p.m., and the Band of the Hongkong Regiment played the Portuguese national anthem. Dancing commenced immediately afterwards and was kept up with unflagging enthusiasm till about 3 a.m., notwithstanding the oppressive heat.

A singular drowning fatality occurred at Green Island on Thursday afternoon. A Chinese youth, who had been visiting some friends stationed at the lighthouse, went down to the rocks to wash himself in a pool of water which is near the beach and surrounded by rocks. As he did not return a search was made by the Water Police, who had been communicated with, and the body of the missing man was found lying on the rocks near the pool. There was a very deep cut on his forehead and also a large bruise, and the supposition is that the man fell forward while washing himself and falling against the rocks stunned himself and was drowned in a few feet of water. The body was taken to the mortuary.

It was stated recently in the *Hongkong Telegraph* that a Chinaman who has resided in America is about to start a line of coaches from the West Gate, Canton, to Fatshan. This appears to be a mistake, as such a line would have to cross the river above Canton and numerous creeks, none of which are bridged. We hear, however, that a good road is to be made for ricksha traffic from the East Gate, Canton, to Whampoa, or to speak more correctly, to a point on the north bank of the river opposite Whampoa. Possibly this is the route to be used for the coaches or trams referred to. The proposed road is in connection with the scheme for a bund right along the water front of the city of Canton. It would be a great boon to the people and could be easily carried out.

At the Magistracy on the 15th April a special Session of the Justices of the Peace was held to consider an application from George Ernest August Heitmuller for a publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors at 8, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "The Hotel Germania." The Justices present were Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Messrs. D. E. Brown, J. H. Lewis, W. Danby, E. Shelton Hooper, E. W. Mitchell, G. R. Stevens, A. G. Morris, W. M. B. Arthur, H. E. Lethbridge, and J. A. da Carvalho. Mr. Bowley appeared for the applicant, who, he said, had been appointed shipping master to the German Consulate and the house would be used by German officers and engineers, of whom 3,834 passed through the colony in a year. The application was supported by all the German firms in Hongkong. The Police objected to the application on the ground that there were two licensed houses within two hundred yards of the proposed house. The Justices refused the application.

H.E. Chang Shao-chung, the Admiral of Kwangtung, who has been ailing for some time but was recently reported better, died on the 16th April.

Detective-Sergeant McIvor went into a Japanese refreshment house in Wellington Street on Tuesday night to search for liquor, when he saw that the water was being wasted. He therefore charged the master, who on the 15th April was fined \$15.

At Saigon Li Hung-chang was saluted with twenty-one guns, at Singapore with nineteen. We believe he felt aggrieved that he was not saluted at Hongkong as the vessel by which he was travelling came into the harbour flying his flag at the main, but both at Saigon and Singapore the salutes were fired when he landed and as he did not land at Hongkong he could not be held entitled to a salute here. Merely passing through the harbour in a steamer does not constitute an official visit to the colony.

At seven o'clock on Saturday night the fire alarm was given from the Fire Station, and judging by the broad red glare in the sky over West Point the firemen anticipated a stiff night's work. The whole of the Brigade turned out with the usual promptitude, but on reaching the place it was seen that the turn-out was useless as the glare was caused only by a big heap of rubbish being burnt by one of the Sanitary Inspectors, and the firemen thereupon returned to their quarters. If the simple precaution of giving notice to the Brigade of the burning of the rubbish had been taken a lot of unnecessary inconvenience would have been avoided.

The import into Hongkong of treasure from Canton continues in a steady and very considerable stream. A good deal is being sent direct from Canton to the north in the shape of five and ten cent pieces, as already mentioned by us, but the bulk comes to Hongkong. Whether it is shipped hence to the north or not is hard to say, as no statistics of the movements of treasure are kept by any regular authority. A large proportion of the money is received here by opium shops as well as by native banks, and it would be interesting to know the cause of this movement. At least two million dollars, it is said, must have been imported since the China New Year, and the money is being collected from all the towns and villages in the surrounding country. Considering the constant rumours of seditious movements in the southern provinces, the extensive smuggling of arms which has for some time past been going on, and the reported fears of the Viceroy that a rising on a large scale is soon to take place it would be well to verify the cause of this large and steady movement of treasure. Possibly the moneyed classes are taking time by the forelock and placing their money in safety out of the reach of plunder; but the extraordinary scarcity of copper cash which prevails at present all over China is most likely the cause of the unusual movement of silver.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following cable from the mine:—"The cyanide trial will be completed by the end of the month. We expect to treat about 500 tons. The chemist expects a good margin of profit. We are reporting fully at an early date." The foregoing is the reply to a cable despatched from Hongkong on the 9th April inquiring what progress was being made with the cyaniding operations, what the prospects were, and the probable date of the completion of the trial.

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Chapter, No. 525, on Monday evening, the Principals for the ensuing year were installed by M.E. Companion E. C. Ray, Second District Grand Principal, assisted by officers of the District Grand Chapter. M.E. Companion F. W. Heuermann, P.Z., had been re-elected to the first chair. E. Companion G. A. Caldwell was installed as H. and Companion D. Macdonald as J. The other officers for the year are as follows:—Scribe E., Comp. J. Dyer Ball; Scribe N., Comp. A. R. Madar; Treasurer, Comp. G. J. B. Sayer; Principal Sojourner, Comp. R. Mitchell; First Assistant Sojourner, Comp. J. Lochead; Second do. Comp. G. C. Hayward; Organist, Comp. C. W. Longuet; Steward, Comp. W. J. Tutcher; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell; and those of them who were present were invested by M.E. Comp. Heuermann.

The Governor has given his assent in the name and on behalf of the Queen to the following Ordinances:—An Ordinance to amend the Buildings Ordinance, the Factors Ordinance, Sale of Goods Ordinance, and an Ordinance to amend the Law as to Moneys of Suitors paid into the Supreme Court.

At the Magistracy on the 17th April, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, the master of 105, Hollywood Road was charged with allowing a dead body to remain on his premises, thereby causing a nuisance. In the opinion of Dr. Atkinson the body had been dead at least five days before it was found in the kitchen. It was of course in a disgusting condition and created such a stench that Inspector Hennessy, who superintended the removal of the corpse, vomited. The Magistrate inflicted a fine of \$15, with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment.

"That black-headed devil there came up and stopped me." This inelegant expression was used by a Chinaman in the Police Court on Tuesday and it cost him \$5. He was giving evidence in a kidnapping case in which he was the principal witness, and he intended his remark for an Indian constable, who seems to have caught not only the kidnapper but the witness himself, and it was in consequence of the indignity he suffered that the Chinaman gave vent to his wrath in such unqualified terms. He was much chagrined when the Magistrate followed up a sharp rebuke with a "fiver," but probably the penalty will induce him to restrain his feelings in future. The kidnapper was sent to gaol for twelve months.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

K. A. Chinoy	\$25
Fleet-Engineer Pitt, R.N.	10
Anon.	1
Per Fung Wa Chün:—	
Shing Wo	\$100
Fung Wa Chün	100
Yan Wo	50
Tsò Sik Tsan	50
Li Yüt Hing	50
Fung Po Sang	50
Wei Yik Sang	25
Chow Shui Po	25
Yeong Yuk Tin	13
Woo Sheong Chow	10
Sui Kui Bank	10
Wong Tai Fong	5
Tang Kit Shang	5
Lum Tsai Shing	5
Pun Shung Sang	2

A very singular case was heard by Commander W. C. H. Hastings at the Police Court on the 16th April. A woman was charged with drugging and robbing her husband and a man was charged with assaulting the husband. On the 1st November, 1894, the complainant was drugged in his own house and on being found by a friend was taken to the Police Station in an insensible condition. He was sent to the Government Civil Hospital, but he was in such a serious condition that it was seven days before he obtained his discharge. He had told the police that a man had drugged him and on going home after leaving the hospital he found that clothing, jewellery, and a medicine box, altogether of the value of \$216, had been stolen from his house. Worse still, his wife had bolted with the man who had robbed and drugged him. The police made inquiries but could not discover the whereabouts of either the man or woman. It was not until Wednesday that an arrest was made and this was under rather curious circumstances. The complainant met his long lost wife in Fuk Tsung Hung and he at once went up to her and questioned her. Just then a man came up and asked the complainant what he meant by talking to the woman. The complainant said the woman was his wife. The woman stoutly denied the allegation and her friend thereupon struck the complainant on the head. Fortunately the police put in an appearance and the man and woman were taken to the station, the former being charged with assault and the latter with drugging and robbing her husband. The case against the woman was not concluded. The man was fined \$5 for the assault.

"An Odd Number" sends us the following:—

There is a young man in Hongkong
On order uncommonly strong;
He despises all oddities,
His twaddle mere shoddy 'tis;
Without him we'll still get along.

THE NANKING MINT.

Messrs. Buchheister & Co. have concluded a contract with H.E. Liu Kun-yi, the Liangkang Viceroy, for the erection of a mint at Nanking, inside the city, for silver and copper coinage, capable of turning out a hundred thousand silver coins and one million copper cash a day. The silver coins will be dollars exactly equivalent to Mexicans, and fractional currency, and the dollars will not have on them the statement that they represent 717 of a tael; and this fact points to the dollar gradually superseding the tael as the unit of the Chinese currency. At the present price in silver of copper and spelter, one thousand cash of the ordinary size cost considerably more than one dollar, and the size of the new cash will be accordingly reduced. It is stipulated that a foreign assayer is to be permanently employed, so that there may be no doubt of the purity of the silver coinage. The machinery is to come from the most eminent makers of minting machinery in the world, Messrs. Heaton of Birmingham, for whom Messrs. Buchheister & Co. are agents.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The clearing of the Shameen Canal was commenced on the 10th April under the direction of the Magistrate of Namhoi and the Superintendent of the local police.

Plague has appeared in the village of Lun-kiang, in Sun-tak district. The people there a few days ago took the gods out in procession to drive away the plague devils.

On the 13th April the Prefect and the local Magistrates went to the Shing-wong Temple to pray for fine weather, and some monks and priests held a service there.

His Excellency Hu Tsan-wai, the new Governor of Canton, who applied for twenty days' leave to return to his native country as already reported, has left his home and he is expected to arrive at Canton next month. The local officers have already made preparations to receive His Excellency.

A man named Lum Tsun-heung has applied to the Government to be allowed to open a mine in Sum Sui Hang, in Sz-wei district, where, he says, lead can be obtained to make lead-pencils, and he further applied that if the mineral from this mine is exported it may be free from likin duty for the term of three years. His application has been granted.

A merchant has farmed out the fort and gun likin levied on sugar to meet the expenses of making guns and building forts, for \$7,000.

Owing to the famine in Kwangsi the sufferers are compelled to eat the bark and leaves of trees. These have nearly been eaten up, and some poor people are now willing to sell their children for a few dollars or several catties of rice each. The local Magistrates have issued notices prohibiting the exportation of children, for fear that they will be taken to some other province for sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—We learn that among the many tenders sent in to the Imperial Chinese Railways last week for 10,000 casks Portland cement and 2,200 tons of steel rails and fastenings for the new railway those of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. were the lowest in both cases and have therefore been accepted.

At Yokohama on the 8th April a house on the Bluff owned by Captain Walker, and occupied by Mrs. Drummond and Captain J. W. Ekstrand was destroyed by fire. The contents of the house belonging to Capt. Ekstrand were insured for 2,500 yen with the London Assurance Corporation and those of Mrs. Drummond for \$5,000 yen with the New Zealand Fire Assurance Company.

The Amoy Horticultural Society held its fourth annual show of flowers and vegetables on 14th instant on the lawn of Beach House. Notwithstanding the continuous wet weather the exhibits of flowers far exceeded those of previous years.

A native steamboat company has been organised at Chinkiang to run small launches from that city to and from Nanking, Yangchow, and Soochow. The launches will tow native boats (as in going from Shanghai to Soochow), and will greatly improve the present slow methods of reaching places on the canal. The office of the company in Nanking has been opened, but boats have not yet begun to run.

Captain Cowie, of the P. and O. steamer *Shanghai* reports that on the voyage from Kobe to Shanghai, on the 10th inst. at noon, in lat. 30 deg. 01 min. N., long. 125 deg. 09 min. E. (approximate), ship going five knots, two casts of the patent lead, with ten minutes' interval between the casts, showed nine fathoms, black mud, where the chart shows from 28 to 30 fathoms. The ship was stopped and ten minutes afterwards the deep sea lead was used and 24 fathoms, black mud, obtained.

The *Messenger* for April says:—Mr. von Brandt has been appointed adviser to the Chinese Government on foreign affairs. He will be provided with a residence in Peking. The Emperor has said to the Ministers that they ought to recommend for employment persons of ability who are acquainted with foreign affairs. Failing to obtain Chinese answering to this description the Ministers have recommended Mr. von Brandt, who was for twelve years Minister for Germany.

The French gunboat *Lutin* arrived at Saigon on the 8th April and was immediately paid off. Her crew, who have completed their term of service on the station, will leave by one of the first steamers for Marseilles. The *Lutin* is to undergo a through overhaul at the Saigon arsenal; her guns will be taken out, her boilers changed, and her fittings renewed throughout. After the repairs and refittings are completed the vessel will be taken to Phompenh and offered by the French Government to H.M. Norodom, King of Cambodia.

The native high authorities at Soochow have given orders for the macadamising of a high road leading from the native city to connect with the future principal thoroughfare of the new foreign settlements outside the north or Panmen gate of that city. Mr. Tsai, formerly Mixed Court magistrate of Shanghai, has been appointed by Governor Chao to superintend the building of the new road, on account, very probably, of his experience in the Model Settlement. The German and Japanese Consuls or their representatives in Soochow have already commenced marking out the sites for their respective Consulates.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Shortly after Liu Kung-yu, the successor of Chang Chih-tung, as Viceroy of the Liangkang, took over the seals of office at Nanking he stopped the completion of the horse road within that city which runs from the West gate to the Viceregal Yamen, but finding that what had already been done by Chang was of convenience to the people he desired to have the work continued and called upon the constructor of the road, as well as Prefect Li of the city, and asked their opinion on the subject. They told Liu that the road was begun by Chang Chih-tung in opposition to the wishes of the people and they advised him not to continue the work, but to listen to the favour asked by the people, in consequence of which the road is to remain in its unfinished condition.—*Mercury*.

A serious fire occurred at 10 o'clock on the night of the 4th April in the compound of the Board of Revenue, Peking, and lasted for over eight hours. The conflagration began in the Dyes and Colours godown, and, spreading, appears to have consumed a considerable portion of the business offices of that Board, no less than eighty odd rooms being destroyed, including the Ta T'ang or "Great Council Room" where the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are wont to assemble in Council on important occasions. A decree of the 6th instant wired to the Hupao consigns the high Ministers of that Board and the officers in charge of the Dyes and Colours godowns to the Board for determination of suitable penalties.

Some time ago Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. applied to the authorities for permission to build an oil tank at Kiukiang, and one at Hankow, but their application was refused by the Chinese officials. Owing to the great demand for oil and their inability to obtain concessions to store oil in the open river ports, we are given to understand they intend erecting another tank on their premises at Pootung. It was the intention of the British owned "Shell" Line of steamers to run direct with their cargoes of oil to either Kiukiang or Hankow, but so far no steamer has yet proceeded up the Yangtze. This objection on the part of the Chinese officials should at once be brought to the notice of Sir Claude MacDonald and the China Association.—*Mercury*.

Dr. Renvers, Fleet-Surgeon of the German Asiatic squadron, died on board the Flagship *Kaiser* in Yokohama harbour on Saturday, 11th April. It seems that in the early hours of the morning, having occasion to take some medicine, Dr. Renvers inadvertently poured out some corrosive sublimate in solution and drank it off. He immediately applied a stomach-pump, but it was of no avail, and death speedily supervened. The sad and sudden death caused deep regret on board and throughout the fleet on the news becoming known. Flags were half-masted on all the shipping in the harbour on Saturday. On Sunday morning the remains were interred in Yokohama Cemetery, being accorded full naval honours. The coffin was covered with lovely wreaths, and some officers and men from H.M.S. *Edgar* followed in the procession.—*Japan Mail*.

The *China Gazette* says:—An additional number of decent houses within a short distance of the business centre of this settlement has been a long felt desire by several foreign residents, and we are glad to observe that the Shanghai Land Investment Company are preparing to meet this demand in a manner that is praiseworthy; the Municipal Council, too, has acted wisely in purchasing ten mow of land for the purpose of utilising it into a public garden. The spot we refer to is situated in the Hongkew district and is bounded as follows:—north by Quinsan Road, south by Boone Road, east by Chapoo Road, and west by North Szechuen Road. There will be about 200 houses forming a sort of square, in the centre of which will be the garden, and those already built look handsome and neat. Of course the houses will vary in size, and from a sanitary point of view we think the locality to be a good one.

A deputation consisting of the Rev. Dr. Muirhead, the Rev. Hudson Taylor, the Rev. H. C. Hodges, the Rev. J. Stevens, and the Rev. G. H. Bondfield, representing British missionaries and missionary organisations, waited on Sir Claude MacDonald at the British Consulate at Shanghai on the 10th April. Sir Claude was presented with a copy of the *Handbook of Chinese Missions*, recently published by the Mission Press, and a copy of the "Imperial" Chinese New Testament. A cordial welcome was given to Sir Claude on behalf of the general body of British Protestant missionaries, and various facts connected with the number of missionaries, the growth of the native church, etc., were put before him. Sir Claude, in reply, expressed himself as being much gratified by the welcome he had received and as much interested in the progress and success of missionary work.

The *Kobe Herald* of the 7th April says:—The M. M. steamer *Saghalien* had the misfortune to take the ground early on Friday morning last when steaming in to Rokuren to pick up a pilot. Fortunately the mail steamer was going dead slow at the time. The ship struck at about 4 a.m., we hear. Anchors were got out fore and aft to keep the ship steady. At 10.30, the tide having risen in the meantime, the ship floated off. An examination showing that she had sustained no damage to speak of, the voyage to Kobe was resumed as soon as the anchors could be picked up, which operation took the best part of an hour. Pilot James boarded the steamer after she took the ground, and the *Yokohama Maru*, outward bound, passed just after the big steamer got off, and enquired if any assistance was wanted. Luckily the *Saghalien's* officers were enabled to reply in the negative.

Mr. and Mrs. von Brandt arrived at Tientsin from Peking on the 10th April en route for Shanghai.

A private telegram from Peking, which has been kindly placed at our disposal, tells us that it is believed there that the Tsungli Yamen has no objection to the extension of the boundaries of the Foreign Settlements of Shanghai, but the whole matter will be referred for settlement to the local officials. If the foreign authorities will now energetically press the matter it will assuredly be settled satisfactorily.—*China Gazette*.

The following telegram has been received by the Singapore Secretary from Raub, dated 7th April:—"Rough cleaning up of battery yielded 1,750 ounces of amalgam, estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,477 tons. Prospects remain unchanged." The quantity of amalgam is equivalent to about 580 ounces of gold. The previous crushing finished on 4th March, the result for about two months' operations being that 2,200 tons of stone realised 1,119 ounces of smelted gold.

The *Bangkok Times* of the 8th April says:—The recent marriage of Captain Jackson, of the *Loosok*, was yesterday the occasion of an interesting gathering on board that vessel. A large party having been entertained at tiffin, Dr. Hays, on behalf of the guests and a large number of friends who were unable to attend, presented, in felicitous terms, to the bride and bridegroom a handsome wedding-present. This consisted of a silver tea-service and an enamelled gold lady's watch, with chain and locket. Captain Jackson suitably acknowledged the presentation, and thanked his and his wife's friends for their congratulations and good wishes. On the same occasion Messrs. Windsor & Co. also gave the newly married couple a memento of their union.

The matrimonial bliss of Mr. Hiyama, an ex-member of the Diet, who some time ago married the daughter of a chief of one of the Formosan tribes, appears to have been brief. According to the *Yushin Nippo*, the gallant Benedict is now broken-hearted. The blushing young bride has been frightened by the ticking of a clock, and has left her husband to meditate in solitude upon the imprudence of introducing the arts and wonders of civilisation so suddenly into the domain of savagery. In vain did Mr. Hiyama try to persuade his spouse that the clock was quite harmless and nothing supernatural. She couldn't believe it and one day during the temporary absence of her husband she abandoned him to single-blessedness again, and escaped from whatever calamity she believed to be attendant on the ticking of a clock.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

Speaking of the proposed increase of the milling power at Raub as well as the suggested introduction of electric power installation for pumping, haulage, lighting, traction, and so on, the *Perak Pioneer* says:—"So far the mine has only paid—including the sixpence now proposed to be distributed—dividends amounting to one shilling since 1890, or earlier, on shares that have been paid up to the extent of thirteen shillings and sixpence or more. The whole of the gold won has only produced in that time \$633,000. Practically, then, up to the present the company has done nothing more than mine for the benefit of its servants and the State of Pahang, a circumstance worthy of consideration for many purposes. To procure what the manager and directors now consider necessary, partially paid-up shareholders will have to contribute the whole of the balance due on their shares. The subject is one that requires pondering on. The views of the manager are worthy of consideration, no doubt; but few things are so delusive as the eccentricities of lodes and mineral deposits generally." Our contemporary overlooks the fact that the mine has been developed out of its earnings.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—"People looking across the river towards Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Wharves and Godowns at Pootung will wonder how the long black-painted funnel that appears to rise up in the air some forty feet from a pontoon is to be utilized. On enquiry we learn that this is a new dredger to be used in deepening the river alongside the B. & S. pontoons at Pootung. These wharves were constructed and godowns built several years ago, with the intention of being used by

the O. S. S. Co.'s line, for which Messrs. Butterfield and Swire are the local agents, but it was found, when too late, that at low tide there would not be sufficient water to permit these well-known "Blue Funnels" lying alongside the pontoons. The Harbour authorities were applied to to extend the pontoons further out into the river into deeper water, but the request was refused. The Inspector-General was then appealed to, but the appeal proved of no avail. As a final test, through H.B.M.'s late Minister, Sir Nicholas O'Connor, pressure was brought to bear on the Tsungli Yamen, but this did not have the desired effect; and, as a last resource, they have got a dredger out with the intention of deepening the water to a depth of 40 feet at low tide.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,146,099	7,813,790
Amoy	781,523	772,692
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,218
Shanghai and Hankow	21,111,512	21,591,499
	40,514,542	44,535,229

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96. lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Amoy	15,601,980	19,447,739
Foochow	6,066,651	4,625,535
Shanghai	29,029,320	25,794,160
	50,697,951	49,870,454

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Yokohama	29,811,760	28,686,847
Kobe	18,731,080	16,879,951
	48,542,840	45,566,798

SILK.

CANTON, 7th April.—Tsatlces and Re-reels.—Nothing doing, prices nominal. Stocks of Re-reels are very small and holders, discouraged by the long continued absence of American demand, would sell at subjoined quotations in order to clear. Filatures.—Have been in regular demand throughout the fortnight at low prices. Dealers are beginning to realize more fully the futility of maintaining their rates in face of the low offers made from home and the heavy stocks existing on the Eastern markets, and a further decline has enabled the execution of a fair number of these orders. From prices paid we quote: \$625/615 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, 13/15, \$617½ for Wing Wo Lun 9/11, \$615 for Kwong Wo Hing 11/13, \$592½ for Quan Kwong Kee 9/11, \$590 for Man Po Sing 10/12, \$585 for Poo Cheong Wo 10/12, \$500 for King Wo Cheong 18/22, \$500/480 for 3rd class 11/13, 13/15. Business with America continues absolutely lifeless. We quote nominally 1st class 14/16 at \$565, Fair 2nd class 14/16 at \$535, Best 3rd class 16/20 at \$490. Waste.—An active demand has ruled for Steam Waste Market Extra at \$74/74½ and about 1,500 bales have found buyers at this price. Rates close firmer. Punjab Waste has sold at \$70/71. Other sorts are neglected. Stocks:—Tsatlces, 500 bales; Filatures, 8,000 bales, reeled and unreeled, to close of season.

SHANGHAI, 16th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular.)—London advices are to 14th current and quote a quiet market with Blue Elephants 10/6. Raw Silk.—The fall in exchange brought a few more buyers and has also stiffened holders.—Gold Kilins are to-day quoted at Tls. 318½ and firm at that price, but it is difficult to see what holders expect to gain at this late period of the season with 13,000 bales hanging over the market. Unless much larger orders come in the position would seem to be hopeless. The settlements include about 400 bales Tsatlces, 100 bales

Kabings and Coarse Silks, 100 bales Yellows, and 100 bales Tussahs.—Some quantities of contract Tussahs are also being shipped. Arrivals from the 9th to the 15th current are 319 bales White, 17 bales Yellow, and 181 bales Wild Silks. Waste Silk.—We hear of no transactions. Pongees.—Unchanged, nothing doing.

Purchases include:—Tsatlces.—Mountain at Tls. 380 per picul, Gold Lion at Tls. 345, Gold Kiling at Tls. 318½, Hemtah Stork Chayling at Tls. 290. Taysaam.—Green Kabing Cicada 2 at 332½. Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 241½, Mee-yang at Tls. 227 to Tls. 232½, Szechong at Tls. 187½. Wild Silk.—Szechuen Tussah Raw at Tls. 113½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Shanghai	50,786	48,179
Canton	16,304	14,014
Yokohama	20,531	20,022
	87,621	83,115

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	9,280	8,453
Shanghai	9,715	8,706
Yokohama	27,659	24,209
	46,654	41,368

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—There is no change to report in the position of the market. Quotations for Formosa are \$63.50 to \$64.00. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Prices are little easier and the market is dull. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.15 to 7.20 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.54 to 6.58 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.52 to 4.55 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.35 to 4.40 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.05 to 7.10 "
do. " 2, White...	6.42 to 6.45 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.40 to 4.45 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.30 to 4.35 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	10.05 to 11.00 "
Shekloong "	9.52 to 9.57 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Aglaia*, Hongkong to Havre, 11th April, took:—160 boxes Camphor, 32 rolls Matting, and 81 cases Chinaware; for Havre option Hamburg:—86 cases Chinaware, 50 bales Rattan Shavings, 1 package Matting Brushes, 6 cases Bristles, 105 cases Camphor, and 85 bales Canes; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—100 cases Camphor, 200 cases Cassia Buds, and 50 cases Bristles; for Hamburg:—6 packages Private Effects, 30 boxes Vermilion, 100 cases Camphor, 105 packages Fire Crackers, 25 packages Rattan Shavings, 40 bales Rattan, 154 bales Canes, 8 cases Ginger, and 4 packages Sundries.

The steamer *Salazie*, Hongkong to Continent 15th April, took:—299 bales Raw Silk, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, 18 cases Essential Oil, 20 bales Waste Silk, 20 packages Tea, and 2 packages Matting.

The steamer *Dardanus*, Hongkong to London, 16th April, took:—20 cases Pearl Shells, 10 cases Blackwoodware, 30 cases Curios 6 cases Chinaware, 13 cases Cigars, 50 cases White Pitch, 30 bales Waste Silk, 130 bales Matting, 20 bales Canes, 175 cases Soy, and 18 packages Sundries; for London option Manchester:—250 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—5 cases Curios and 1 case Sundries; for Glasgow:—3 cases Chinaware, and 7 cases Sundries.

The steamship *Dorothea Bickmers*, Hongkong to Marseilles, 17th April, took:—20 bales Canes, 23 cases Human Hair, 64 rolls Matting, 100 bales Waste Silk, and 129 packages Merchandise; for Hamburg:—20 bales Black Bamboo, 50 cases Bristles, 85 bales Rattans, 437 bales Feathers, and 1,000 packages Tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Bengal.—A further decline in the prices of this drug has been established, quotations closing at \$730 for New Patna, \$755 for Old Patna, \$717½ for New Benares, and \$790 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—Owing to an improvement in the demand, prices have ruled slightly higher during the interval. Current figures are as follows:—
 New \$750 with all'ance of 0 to 4 cts.
 Old (2/3 yrs.) \$760 " 4 to 1 "
 " (4/5 yrs.) 770 " 0 to 1 "
 " (6/8 yrs.) \$780 " 0 to 1 "
 Persian.—The market has continued sluggish, scarcely any sales having taken place during the past week. Prices are weak and on the decline, latest figures being \$630 to \$665 for Paper-wrapped and \$600 to \$630 for Oily according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,209 chests
Old Patna	735 "
New Benares	404 "
Old Benares	92 "
Malwa	285 "
Persian	1,502 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 15.	742½	760	730	790	750/760	770/780
April 16.	745	765	732½	790	750/760	770/780
April 17.	742½	765	730	790	750/760	770/780
April 18.	740	765	727½	790	750/760	770/780
April 19.	740	765	727½	790	750/760	770/780
April 20.	735	760	725	790	750/760	770/780
April 21.	730	757½	720	790	750/760	770/780
April 22.	730	755	717½	790	750/760	770/780

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—A steady business has been done during the past fortnight, at former rates, in Bengal Cotton. Stocks: Bengal, about 5,000 bales, Ningpo about 100 bales.
 Bombay \$12.00 to 16.00 p. pl.
 Kurrachee 12.00 to 15.50 "
 Bengal, Rangoon, and }
 Dacca 15.00 to 16.00 "
 Shanghai and Japanese.. 19.00 to 21.00 "
 Tunchow and Ningpo.. 19.00 to 19.50 "
 Madras 13.00 to 17.00 "
 Sales: 1,200 bales Bengal, Rangoon and Dacca;
 100 bales Tunchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Prices have risen a little during the week in sympathy with the Siam market. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.32 to 2.35
" Round, good quality	2.60 to 2.62
" Long	2.70 to 2.73
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.52 to 2.54
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.82 to 2.84
" White	3.12 to 3.15
" Fine Cargo	3.27 to 3.30

COALS.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Market continues dull; sales of 4,000 tons Japan at \$4½ to \$5 is reported. Quotations are:—
 Cardiff \$12.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
 Australian ... 7.00 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
 Milke Lump... \$5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
 Milke Small... 4.85 to — ex ship, do
 Moji Lump ... 4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—880 bales No. 10 at \$70 to \$70.50, 615 bales No. 12 at \$72.50 to \$76.50, 520 bales No. 16 at \$84.50 to \$91, 1,420 bales No. 20 at \$72 to \$91. Grey Shirtings.—750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 men at \$3.70, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.32½. White Shirtings.—500 pieces X at \$4.20, 750 pieces No. 600 at \$4.05, 1,500 pieces Peacock at \$3.20, 1,000 pieces Flower at \$4.55, 753 D. F. at \$4.60, 750 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.45, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$3.95, 503 pieces S. S. at \$4.30. T. Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Crown at \$2.27½, 750 pieces Mexican Red Stag at \$2.30. Drills.—150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.20. Black Velvets.—600 pieces 22 in. Green Dragon at \$0.20½.

SHANGHAI, 16th April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—The market is in a transition state at the moment, there being a much better enquiry for certain classes of goods for forward delivery; at the same time there is little or no improvement in the demand for spot cargo. The dealers evidently

see a prospect of clearing out the bulk of the supplies they have indentured for before the autumn trade sets in, and are accordingly taking advantage of the opportunities as they occur of booking cheap parcels to arrive towards the end of the summer. So far American makes are presenting the greatest inducement to operators, the periodical fit of weakness, that has characterised producers in the States, at intervals during the past few years, having once more set in, to the embarrassment of both native and foreign holders here. It can scarcely be called "playing the game," and must be detrimental to the successful development of their trade in the long run. Some fairly large parcels have been booked during the interval at prices which lay them down here considerably under current quotations, naturally causing a weaker feeling all round. Manchester has shown no sign yet of following suit, business in those makes being comparatively quiet, but the few transactions that have gone through prove the ability of the dealers for paying up when the goods are wanted. In spot cargo slightly more enquiry has been met with at fairly steady prices, but it said that goods are being resold at a decline, which can easily be stood in the case of many that were settled five or six months ago. The drop in Exchange this week has no doubt prevented more business going through, as the dealers are not disposed to raise their prices accordingly. At auction, in fact, the tendency has been downwards, notwithstanding more reasonable quantities have been forced off. That the markets are better at the outports is shown by the improvement in deliveries, Prints and Dyed goods continuing to attract considerable attention.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—17th April:—The general tone of the market continues to be dull and quiet, and dealers are very disinclined to order for future requirements, as stocks both here and in the North are ample, whilst the demand from consuming centres is small. Sales from stock continue, but flaggingly, and even the indent business in Sundries is quiet. Lead.—Sales have been made of L.B. at \$12 2s. 6d. c.i.f., and there is no further change to report. Nailrods and Bar Irons are still neglected, and the advance on the other side is regarded by natives with complete indifference, as their holdings and their purchases yet "to arrive" are ample to meet any wants during the next two months or so. Sohlers Exp. is quoted to-day at 120s. c.i.f., and other brands are about the same figure. Copper and Yellow Sheathing.—Sales have been made at current rates, and contracts have been issued for 50 cases Copper Sheathing. Spelter.—Some 150 to 200 tons Hard Spelter have been placed at about quotations. Nickel.—Contracts have been made, but details have not yet leaked out. Tinplates.—1,500 to 2,000 boxes I.C.W. have been done at Tls. 3.27½ to Tls. 4.00, ex godown, "to arrive." Old Iron, &c.—Very little has been done, several offers, wired home, have been refused for higher prices, and dealers are rather at a loss to account for the steady firmness of the home market at ruling rates, but are gradually coming to the conclusion that last year's figures will not be seen again, for some time at any rate. 100 tons Scrap is said to have been booked at 70/6, c.i.f., and contracts for Tyres, Boiler Plates, and Shoes have also been settled at an advance on last prices. Indent business is rather dull, and sales reported are few and of little importance. With the fairly steady exchange it only requires a little brisker demand with better reports from the North and river districts to encourage natives to begin buying again in earnest.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.75
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.81
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.23
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	185½
Bank, on demand	186

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	185½
Bank, on demand	186
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 % pm
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 % pm
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.97
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per auel	46.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—The market has ruled slack since the date of our last and we have nothing of any importance to report. Rates generally have weakened and the market closes quiet at quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued to rule dull, and we have no sales to report; shares are obtainable at 188 per cent. prem. Nationals have found buyers at \$30½ and \$31, closing with sellers at the latter rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders in the early part of the week came into demand and sales were effected at \$79½ and \$80; at one time the demand for shares at \$80 was not met by sellers, but at time of closing they are obtainable at that rate. Unions have again been dealt in at \$212½ and \$213, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Cantons have changed hands at \$200. North-Chinas and Yangtszes with sellers from the north have both gone back, and shares are obtainable at Tls. 225 and \$160 respectively. Straits after ruling firm during the early part of the week at \$29½ to \$30 have declined to \$29 with sales and sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have experienced a set-back, consequent on selling orders from Shanghai, and we have to report sales of the former at \$335, \$330, and \$325, and of the latter at \$95, \$94, \$93, and \$92, market closing in both cases weakish.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao continue quiet with sales at \$33½, closing weakish at that rate. Indo-Chinas with shares offering freely from Shanghai have ruled weak, with sales at \$69, \$68, \$67½, and \$67; market closes at \$67 sellers, and \$66 probable buyers. China and Manilas have advanced to \$68 with sales and buyers. Douglasses have ruled in fair demand resulting in sales at \$52, \$52½, \$53, \$53½, and \$54, closing with sellers at the latter rate. China Mutuals continue on offer at quotations without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue neglected with falling rates, and shares are obtainable at \$123. Luzons have also experienced a set-back to \$66, without business.

MINING.—Punjoms.—The firmness reported in our last continuing rates gradually rose with sales at \$11½, \$12, \$12½, \$13, and \$13½ to \$14, at which last rate market closes steady, but with a few sellers. Balmorals with the reported failure of the London negotiations have ruled decidedly weaker, and after sales at \$2.90, \$2.80, and \$2.70, shares are obtainable at \$2.25. Jezebus have ruled steady at \$3.75, but sellers at that rate rule the market. Raubs have been in some request and have changed hands in fair lots at \$5.75, closing steady. Olivers have found buyers at \$6 and \$3 for A and B shares.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have fully maintained the position reported in our last and sales were effected at 180, 181, and 182 per cent. prem. in the early part of the week; later, sales at 180 and 181 are reported, market closing firm at the latter rate. On time shares have changed hands at 187 for June, 193, 192, and 191 per cent. prem. for August. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at \$47 and \$47½, and Wanchai Godowns at \$39.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands have ruled weak and after small sales at \$72½ are obtainable at \$72. Hotels and West Points have changed hands at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales have taken place of Green Islands at \$16 and \$15½, Watsons at \$13 (closing strong), Electrics at \$7.25 and \$7, Ropes at \$120, Fenwicks at \$26, Ices at \$106, and Tramways at \$95.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$360, sellers]
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	188 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$31, sales & sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$115, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$9
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$5, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$25, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$15, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7.25, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$93, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$26, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$47, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$120, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	181 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$351, sales]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sales & sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$92, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$80, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sales & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 225, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$29, sales
Union	\$25	\$213, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$72, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.50, sellers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$20, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$66, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$3.75, sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2.25, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$14, sales & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3, sales & buyers
Rauts	13s. 10d.	\$5.75, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$68, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£3.16, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8 10, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$54, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$66, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$39, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 17th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One sale at 196 per cent. premium for delivery on 3th June is reported. The market is weak with sellers. The Hongkong rate is 189 per cent. premium. National Bank of China.—Shares were placed to Hongkong buyers at \$30. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares were sold at Tls. 52 to Tls. 51 cash and Tls. 51½ for April, and Tls. 55½ for August. The market closes weak with sellers. Douglas Steamship shares changed hands locally at \$52, and were sold to Hongkong at \$51. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were placed at Tls. 192½ cash and Tls. 196 for 31st July. Cash shares are offering. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares were sold to Hongkong at 182½ and 182 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Shares were sold at Tls. 225. Yangtzes at \$170 and \$172½ cash, and \$172½ to \$175 for delivery on the 30th current, Cantons at \$205 and \$207, and Straits at \$29.75 to \$30 cash, \$29.75 for April, and \$30 to \$31 for July. Cantons and Straits are offering at lower rates. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been placed to Hongkong at \$335 and Chinas at \$95. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 120 cash and Tls. 126/125 for June delivery. Mining.—Punjom Mining shares have changed hands at \$15. Tugs.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 200, Taku Tug and Lighter shares at T. Tls. 115, Shanghai Cargo Boats at Tls. 207½, and Co-operative Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 185. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 43 cash, and the same rate for delivery on the 30th April. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 80, Kowloon Land and Building shares were purchas-

ed, from Hongkong, at \$20. Factories.—Major Brothers shares have been in demand, and business was done at Tls. 37½ to Tls. 45. In Cotton Mill shares, E-wos were sold at Tls. 70, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 75 to Tls. 77½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were sold at Tls. 225. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 340 to Tls. 360 cash and Tls. 355 for 30th June, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 70, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$34½ cash and \$35 for the end of this month. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares are now wanted at Tls. 380.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—The volume of business transacted during the past fortnight has been about equal to that during the preceding one, but at the close the demand has somewhat weakened.

Saigon to Hongkong there is very little enquiry and not more than 9 cents is obtainable for large boats and 10 cents for small carriers. From Saigon to Amoy there has been some enquiry at about 19 to 20 cents. Bangkok to Hongkong, one small carrier has been fixed at 11½ and 16½ cents, but there is little demand.

Newchwang to Canton, one fixture only is reported, at 21½ cents, but in consequence of more favourable advices from the north regarding the quantity of produce likely to be available for shipment rates show some sign of hardening. Coal freights.—Japan to Hongkong remain at \$1.50; to Singapore about \$2 might be obtained. For sailing tonnage hence to New York there is not much enquiry. Cargo can be booked at 17 to 18 shillings per ton. For San Francisco a sailer could be placed at about \$2.50 per ton.

There are 3 vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,441 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Belle of Bath—American ship, 1,347 tons, Singapore to Hongkong, \$8,500.

Colorado—American barque, 1,036 tons, Kebao to San Francisco, \$4,750.

Velocity—British barque, 495 tons, hence to Honolulu and back, \$6,000 Mex.

Wings—British steamer, 1,517 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per ton.

Maeduff—British steamer, 1,852 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Benlawers—British steamer, 1,484 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Benlawie—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Argyll—British steamer, 1,886 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Beunohr—British steamer, 1,935 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 21½ cents per picul.

Oscarshol—Norwegian steamer, 915 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 11½ and 16½ cents per picul.

Utrecht—Dutch steamer, 1,654 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (part cargo), 12½ cents per picul.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12½ cents per picul.

Ariado Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,905 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,409 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10½ cents per picul.

Carmarthenshire—British steamer, 1,875 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9½ cents per picul.

Utrecht—Dutch steamer, 1,654 tons, Saigon to Amoy (part cargo), 19 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 21 cents per picul.

Apenrade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to Manila, 22½ cents per picul.

Chusan—German steamer, 719 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$3,600 per month.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,811 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$6,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Pingsuey* (str.), Canton (str.), *Menelaus* (str.), *Palamed* (str.), *Cowrie* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Yarra* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Queen Elizabeth*, *Belgic* (str.), *Formosa*, *Peta* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Victoria* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*T. F. Oakes*, *Tam O'Shanter*, *Gerard C. Tobey*, *Lucy A. Nickels*, *Radnorshire* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Chingtu* (str.), *Changsha* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

April—
15, Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., from Moji.
15, Choysang, British str., from Wuhu.
15, Pigmy, British g-bt., from Canton.
15, Dardanus, British str., from Amoy.
15, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Tamsui.
15, Skarpsno, Norw. str., from Port Wallut.
15, Loosak, British str., from Bangkok.
15, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
16, Darius, British str., from Bangkok.
16, Benlarig, British str., from Moji.
16, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
16, Swallow, German str., from Moji.
16, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
16, Yungehing, Chinese str., from Swatow.
16, Anjer Head, British str., from Saigon.
16, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
16, Ceylon, British str., from London.
16, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
17, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
17, Hyson, British str., from Singapore.
17, Anchises, British str., from Liverpool.
17, Federation, British str., from Java.
17, Cosmopolit, German str., from Newchwang.
17, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
17, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
17, Ask, Danish str., from Hoihow.
17, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
17, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
17, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
17, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
17, Belgic, British str., from San Francisco.
17, Benledi, British str., from Saigon.
18, Ravenna, British str., from Bombay.
18, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
18, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
18, Telamon, British str., from Liverpool.
18, Shanghai, British str., from Yokohama.
18, Erato, German str., from Hamburg.
18, Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.
18, Chusan, German str., from Pakhoi.
19, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
19, Sultan, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
19, Argyll, British str., from Saigon.
19, Foochow, British str., from Shanghai.
19, Turbo, British str., from Shanghai.
19, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
19, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Canton.
19, Dante, German str., from Singapore.
19, Priam, British str., from Shanghai.
19, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
19, Kwongmo, British str., from Tamsui.
20, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., from Shimodoseki.
20, Sebastian Bach, British bark, from S'pore.
20, Doris, German str., from Newchwang.
20, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Canton.
20, Cosmopolit, German str., from Canton.
20, Martha, German str., from Saigon.
20, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
20, Hoihow, British str., from Newchwang.
20, Asloun, British str., from Portland.
20, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
21, Peshawur, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Changsha, British str., from Moji.
21, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
21, Amigo, British str., from Bangkok.
21, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
21, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
21, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
21, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
21, Apenrade, German str., from Saigon.
21, Taicheang, German str., from Aroe Bay.
21, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
22, Canton, British str., from Canton.
22, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Skarpsno, Norw. str., from Canton.
22, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Namoa, British str., from Swatow.
22, Niobe, German str., from Kobe.
22, Mathilde, German str., from Moji.
22, Clara, German str., from Amoy.
22, Malacca, British str., from London.
22, Peiyang, German str., from Wuhu.
22, Kwongsang, British str., from Chinkiang.

DEPARTURES.

April—

14, Harrow, British str., for Nagasaki.
15, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Kong Alf, Norw. str., for Touron.
15, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
15, Salazie, French str., for Europe.

15, Redpole, British g.-bt., for Amoy.
 15, Altmore, British str., for Moji.
 15, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Evandale, British str., for Moji.
 15, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Kiangpack, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 16, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Benlawers, British str., for Nagasaki.
 16, China, British str., for S. Francisco.
 16, Dardannus, British str., for London.
 16, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 16, Eton, British str., for Saigon.
 16, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 16, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., for K'notzu.
 16, Namyang, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Amoy.
 16, Skarpsno, Nor. str., for Canton.
 17, Frejr, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 17, Taksang, British str., for Tientsin.
 17, Zafiro, British str., for Amoy.
 17, Bygdo, Norwegain str., for Canton.
 17, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
 17, Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., for H'burg.
 17, Strathnevis, Brit. str., for Kobe.
 17, Yungching, Chi. str., for Shanghai.
 18, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Cosmopolit, German str., for Canton.
 18, Orono, British str., for Port Darwin.
 18, Arratoon Apear, British str., for S'pore.
 18, Anchises, British str., for Amoy.
 18, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Carmarthenshire, British str., for Saigon.
 18, Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 19, Benmohr, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 19, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 19, China, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19, Hailoong, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Hiroshima Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 19, Ravenna, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Whampoa, British str., for Chefoo.
 20, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Kiang Pak, British str., for Chefoo.
 20, Priam, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Telamon, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.
 21, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
 21, Pio IX, Spanish str., for Manila.
 21, Kwong Mo, British str., for Amoy.
 21, Yuensang, British str., for Amoy.
 21, Doris, German str., for Canton.
 21, Dante, German str., for Amoy.
 21, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 21, Shanghai, British str., for London.
 21, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
 21, Loosok, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Turbo, British str., for Saigon.
 22, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 22, Cheang Hock Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 22, Erato, German str., for Yokohama.
 22, Benlarig, British str., for Moji.
 22, Tetartos, German str., for Singapore.
 22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sydney*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles—Père Locatel. From Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, Mr. Woodside. From Colombo—Mr. Juan Pedro Muniz. From Batavia—Mr. Sian Sion Sioe. From Singapore—Messrs. Yap Poon, Yeo Tong Chuan, Yeo Ho Teng, Tan Quei Hin, Altman, and Greenfield. From Saigon—Messrs. Arnold and Cazano. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Berteaux, Consul Colin de Plancy, Messrs. Van Zuylen, Tanant, de Malherbe, Fischer, Wolde-mar Smirnoff, Molechanoff, Deacon, Aldis, Colomb, Black, Ampenoff, Chochloff, and Risseff. From Alexandria—Miss Matler. From Calcutta—Messrs. Soutter and Johan Johanson. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Pasche, Messrs. Brown, Remanaka, and Verbeck. From Saigon—Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Kanagawa, Mrs. Greenfield, Mr. Martos. For Kobe from Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Willand. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Tambara, Mr. and Mrs. Kobayashi, Mr. and Mrs. Odachi, Mrs. Onechu, Messrs. Cameron Rogers and Kaabata. From Saigon—

Mr. Miada. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Saphiere, Messrs. René André, Wm. White, and Calife. From Colombo—Mr. Salinger. From Batavia—Lord Henry Thynne, Messrs. Fearing and Reeves. From Singapore—Sœur St. Winefried Delpous, Mère St. Henri Dernelles, and Mr. Le Chevalier Testa. From Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. Rand and 2 children, and Mr. Hewat.

Per *Salazie*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. Kuhn, Welton, Piry, Butcher, Mrs. Piry and 5 children, Sisters Agnes and Augustine. For Saigon—Mr. Graindorge. For Marseilles—Messrs. Den, Matsumaga, Fanocka, Thiollier, Smith, Hamon, Zurn, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Vela.

Per *Centaur*, str., from Sandakan—Mr. F. Shaw.

Per *Namyong*, str., from Singapore—Mr. A. Casey, and 200 Chinese.

Per *Dardanus*, str., from Amoy—Captain Hodgins.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports—Mrs. Ferrier, Mrs. Groz.

Per *Yuensang*, str., from Manila—Messrs. Stapleton and Villeta.

Per *Hiroshima Maru*, str., from Singapore—Mr. Miller.

Per *Ceylon*, str., from London for Hongkong—Mr. K. Hughes. For Shanghai—Messrs. C. W. Gordon and Binghard. For Yokohama—Mr. Fraser, Miss McRae. From Singapore for Hongkong—Mr. Larken.

Per *Belgie*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Winam, and 115 Chinese.

Per *Shanghai*, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Portier, and Miss Myers.

Per *Ravenna*, str., from London for Hongkong—Mrs. Stopani, Messrs. C. E. Pierce, F. Smith, A. G. Horn, and Owen Ordish, and Miss Gertrude Waller. For Shanghai—Mr. Hall, Mrs. Fulton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Horolin and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Christie.

For Nagasaki—Mr. H. E. Charlesworth. For Kobe—Mr. Nutter. For Yokohama—Messrs. King Finlay, Kubota, W. B. Stewart, Pilkington, G. F. Watson, Arthur Corry, and W. S. Jackson.

From Brindisi for Hongkong—Messrs. F. S. Gay, Hornby, Harvey, and Simpson. For Shanghai—Messrs. Hockley and Panoff.

For Yokohama—Sir Andrew Noble, Misses Noble and Watts, Messrs. J. H. B. Noble and P. Watts.

From Bombay for Hongkong—Surgeon-Major H. Adey. For Kobe—Mr. Morita. For Yokohama—Maj. Genl. and Mrs. B. H. Blundell, Lieut. W. C. Symon, Mrs. Wolseley Cox, and Capt. J. J. Allan.

For Hongkong from Calcutta—Messrs. Gunther and Pell. From Penang—Mr. Harold Furnival. From Singapore—Messrs. J. H. Whitehouse, — Whitehouse, C. J. Whitehouse, Kittredge, Walcott, Holmes, Meang Seng, Meang Tell, P. A. Remedios, and Athong.

Lieut. James, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Beaman, Misses Beaman (2), and Mary Campbell. For Shanghai—Messrs. Albert Thofelein and Chein Fook Cheong.

For Nagasaki—Mrs. Yuano, and Mrs. Oskaru.

Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta, &c.—Dr. and Mrs. Rudolf, Lieut. Walpole and Griffiths, R.E., Messrs. De Nicville Fraser, Forbes and Chong.

Per *Priam*, from Shanghai, &c.—Mrs. Watt and 2 children, Mrs. Nielsen and child, Miss Lyell, Messrs. Huipger, Pinckney, Hasting.

Per *Verona*, from Yokohama for Hongkong—Major D. Kysh, R.M.L.I., Private Wilton, Messrs. Longford, Friemann, Cassus. From Kobe—Mr. Ernest Griffiths. From Yokohama for London—Mr. Neville Noakes.

Per *Changsha*, str., from Moji—Mr. C. C. Eitel.

Per *Haimun*, steamer, from Tamsui, &c.—Mrs. Whitmore.

Per *Peshawur*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mrs. Charles Grant and 2 infants, Messrs. Clarke Robertson and W. J. Robertson.

For Singapore—Mr. D. Soutar, and Miss Mary Moss. For Bombay—Mr. M. M. Abdul Hussein. For Calcutta—Mr. Adolf S. Spitzell.

For London—Mrs. Morgan and children, Messrs. A. W. Burkhill, B. Stewart, James Binks, Mrs. Stevens and 5 children, Misses Stevens and Miles, and Mrs. F. J. Abbott and infant.

Per *Empress of India*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Messrs. G. J. Veitch, K. Yamamoto, and J. J. Buchheister,

Surg. E. A. Shaw, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Powell and Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle.

DEPARTED.

Per *Suisang*, str., for Singapore—Mrs. J. K. Kohn, Messrs. J. Napier and Leung Yeung Tong. For Calcutta—Mr. D. Mackey.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Foochow—Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Richards.

Per *Sydney*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Mrs. Cruz and child, Mrs. Barradas and child, Mrs. David Benjamin and 2 daughters, Miss H. Botelho, Miss R. Ezekiel, Messrs. B. Botelho and 3 children, Foret, Rome, Cruz, M. Benjamin, and Arnold.

For Yokohama—Lieut. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. K. Fukui and child, Alf. Woolley, Guillot, and Fioravanti, Sister Augustine. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Messrs. Van Zuylin, Tanaut, de Malherbe, Fischer, Woldemar Smernoff, Molechanoff, Deacon, Aldis, Mr. and Mrs. Berteaux, Mr. Colin de Plancy (French Consul), Miss Colomb, Messrs. Black, Ampenoff, Chochloff, and Kisseff.

From Alexandria—Miss Matler. From Calcutta—Rev. Soutter, and Mr. Johan Johanson.

From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Pasche, Messrs. Brown, Revanaka, and Overbeck. From Saigon—Mr. Martos, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Kanagawa, Mrs. Greenfield.

For Kobe from Calcutta—Messrs. Willand and Sübe. From Singapore—Mr. Cameron Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Tambara, Mr. and Mrs. Kobayashi, Mr. and Mrs. Okaché, Mrs. Omchu, and Mr. Kaabata.

From Saigon—Mr. Miada. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Messrs. René André, Wm. White, and Calife, Mr. and Mrs. Saphiere and baby.

From Colombo—Mr. Salinger. From Batavia—Lord Henry Thynne, Messrs. Fearing and Reeves. From Singapore—Sister Sa. Henri Demilles, Sister Sa. Winefried Delpont, and H.E. Chevalier Testa (Dutch Minister).

From Saigon—Mr. Hewat, Mrs. Rand and 2 children, and Mr. Rand.

Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Messrs. Chakoulaff and Da Luz, Miss Da Luz. From Singapore—H.E. Horta e Costa, Mrs. Horta e Costa, Mr. and Mrs. Rickmer, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmann, Mrs. W. Rickmers, Messrs. A. J. Bastos, A. Silvano, L. B. Walls, J. A. Wilder, G. Mayne, and J. McMillan.

For Marseilles—Mrs. H. R. Coombs, Mrs. Beyfus, Mrs. Wenyon, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Messrs. P. Lara, M. Henry, and G. Moore. From Shanghai for Saigon—Mr. Graindorge. For Marseilles—Messrs. Den, Matsumaga, Fanocka, Thiollier, Smith, Hamon, Zurn, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Vela.

Per *China*, str., for Nagasaki—Mr. W. E. Hunt. For Kobe—Rev. C. H. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Ryerson, Lieut. Close. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. T. Simons, Mr. J. Noodside, Lieut. Campbell, Miss Van Buren. For Honolulu—Mr. Yuen Cheong. For San Francisco—Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hutchison, Messrs. E. J. Bates, and Geo. B. Hunt, Miss Hunt, Miss P. Hunt, Miss M. L. Ostrum. For London—Messrs. Wm. A. Kiay, Ed. Hutchison, and W. H. Purcell.

Per *Dardanus*, str., for London—Messrs. C. F. Smith and G. Ledeuf.

Per *Hongkong*, str., for Hoihow—Rev. Street. For Haiphong—Mr. Thivollier, Mr. and Mrs. C. Jensen. For Hanoi—Mr. and Mrs. Schwaabe and daughter.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Weber, Miss Ruby Burto, Messrs. Alfred Mehloose, A. W. Campbell, Sandoral, A. F. Carrick and John Kennedy.

Per *Ravenna*, from Hongkong for Shanghai—Messrs. H. Baker, G. A. Kittredge, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Beaman, 2 Misses Beaman, Messrs. E. J. Whitehouse, Brown, J. P. I. Moniz, and P. A. Wolff. From London—Mr. Hall, Mrs. Fulton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Horobin and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Christie. From Brindisi—Messrs. Hockly and Panoff. From Singapore—Messrs. Albert Thofelein and Chein Fook Cheong.

Per *Ceylon*, str., from London for Shanghai—Messrs. C. W. Gordon and C. H. Binghard. For Yokohama—Miss McRae, and Mr. C. A. Fraser.

Per *Orono*, str., for Sydney, &c.—Messrs. Yokoyama, Buckhold and Fannon.

Per *Pio IX*, from Hongkong for Manila—Messrs. Alfredo Villeta, Capriano Lopez, Felix Unzon and Joseph Banchet.

Per *Yuensang*, from Hongkong for Manila—Messrs. J. H. Gibson and Henry Bickett.